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## MPLT'S DEMAND LETTER TO DPL: ‘Where's our \$5.62M?’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust has sent a second demand letter to the Department of Public Lands to already remit \$5,620,461 that is allegedly due to MPLT in fiscal year 2019 and warned of an investigation and a lawsuit if DPL fails to immediately remit the money.

MPLT, through lawyer Robert T. Torres, noted that See \$5.62M on Page 4

### AT A GLANCE

As of 7:30pm, May 23, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **53%**  
Fully Vaccinated: **53%**

Pfizer/BioNTech			
Initiated:	<b>21,402</b>		
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>19,213</b>		
Moderna			
Initiated:	<b>3,737</b>		
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>2,843</b>		
Janssen			
Fully vaccinated:	<b>246</b>		

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>8,131</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8,136</b>
Recovered	<b>7,894</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7,927</b>
Active	<b>65</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>70</b>
Deaths	<b>139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>139</b>
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	<b>163,371</b>		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>181</b>
Traced via Travel Screening	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>145</b>
Traced via Community Screening	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>
Deaths	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	<b>26,131*</b>		
Days since last community transmission	<b>68</b>		

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

#### NEW PROA SETS SAIL

500 Sails co-founder Peter Perez, fourth from right, helps with raising Auntie Oba's sail during the canoe's launch at the beachside in front of the Guma Sakman Sunday.

JOSHUA SANTOS



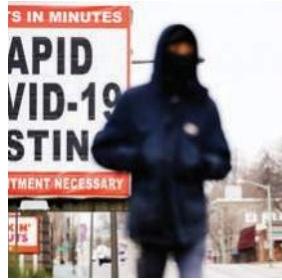
#### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

##### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### INSIDE



#### NATION

Vaccinations eclipse another major change in guidance from the government: Getting tested.

PAGE 12



#### WORLD

A cable car in Italy plummets to the ground and tumbles down a slope, killing 14 people.

PAGE 13



#### LIFE & STYLE

It was a family affair at this year's Billboard Music Awards.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Middle School inducts 24 new members to the National Junior Honor Society last May 22 at the campus cafeteria.

# Local

## Hopwood inducts NJHS members

torian; and Leilani Attao, PRO.

The NJHS members (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) are Mathea Jenelle Deocares, Donovan Cairo Javier, Mary Grace Kym Legaspi, Irene Huilin Wang; and (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) Mark Costales, and James Mercader.

The 2020-2021 inductees are (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) Jedric Jizaiah G. Anicete, Si Jin Cheng, Francine Joy D. Ebuen, Avril Lazar, Angelo T. Lobo, Milarose Jeanne M. Magno, Julianne Rue Magtalas, Jia Ross Nicdao, Koey Pan, Angieleysha Marie dB. Punzalan, and Jean Mae V. Roldan; (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) Zack I. Camacho, Frances Louise D. Hernandez, Hayden Romeo Igisomar, and Kianna Rae A. Palacios; (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) Kaye Anne Costales, Sarah Islam, Alexa Ralene Panganiban, Rafael N. Pascual, John Peter N. Quidato, Princess Nicole B. Rigua, Simon Roy P. Romero, Jheams Cyron A. Sagana, and Damien Alfred S. Santos.

Nathrani, who was recently awarded her doctorate degree in Education with a specialization in Digital Transformation, took the inductees and members down the memory lane when she was an innocent middle school student at Hopwood, a high school volunteer and active Student Council officer, and her love for teaching. She is considered the youngest doctor in the field of education in the CNMI.

HMS principal Victorino Borja gave the welcoming remarks. Vice principals Karen Manuel and Ben Seman led the inductees in their membership pledges and gave the closing remarks respectively.

The NJHS Hopwood Middle School chapter advisers are Wilma David, Esco Ulloa, Irish San Nicolas, Victoria Nishida, and Rhine Reyes.

The NJHS officers are Bwilitomwar "Derek" Rangamar, president; Sylvia Sanchez, vice president; Rizza Relucio, secretary; Yu Xin "Lucy" Chen, treasurer; Jermaine Montenjo, his-

It is estimated that more than one million students participate in NJHS activities worldwide. NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and around the world. (PR)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### 4.1-magnitude quake in Marianas

At 10:01pm on May 23, 2021, a report of a 4.1-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.608°N 143.122°E in the Marianas region. Currently there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. (PR)

Cybersecurity. The Department of Defense is requiring cybersecurity certification for vendors. We will discuss the best way to comply with DOD's requirement. The upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed.

The webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. Register at <http://guamp tac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

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# Kilili: Permanent residents, long-term residents eligible for ERA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that permanent residents as well as those with the long-term CNMI resident status created in Public Law 116-24 are eligible to avail of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said emergency rental assistance from the American Rescue Plan is available to those in need in the Marianas. Sablan said the U.S. Treasury Department published the websites of each state and territory this week to assist renters get help paying rent, utilities, deposits, and penalties for

the period from March 2020 through April 2021.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program aims to reduce evictions to keep CNMI citizens in stable homes, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The delegate said the CNMI has been allocated \$10,400,669 on the basis of population for the ERA program under terms of Section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan.

Last March, Office of Grants Management administrator Epiphanio Cabrera Jr. said the ERA program can accept up to 1,500 clients a month. Yet despite a large amount of available funding, they have received only 700 applicants so far at the time.

## Falun Dafa caps monthlong celebration



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Falun Dafa Saipan president Weimin Li pose with their exchanged gifts. Li presented Apatang with the book *The Minghui Report: The 20-Year Persecution of Falun Gong in China*, and Li received a plaque commemorating Falun Dafa's 22nd anniversary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Traditional Chinese spiritual organization Falun Dafa honored the religious movement's founder, Li Hongzhi, in a ceremony last May 20 that was part of the group's monthlong celebration.

Weimin Li, president of Falun Dafa Association Saipan, was joined at the ceremony by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Youki Kishimoto from the Saipan Mayor's Office, and other Falun Dafa practitioners.

At the ceremony, a Falun Dafa practitioner thanked Apatang and the people of Saipan for their continued support of the organization. "We express our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Mayor and [the] Saipan people. Your support of Falun Dafa demonstrates the recognition and support of our... residents' universal values. ... Saipan...will surely become

better and more harmonious. ... [Apatang and the] Saipan people respect human rights, beliefs, and demonstrate the power of courage and justice. Your actions are very precious, and [we] sincerely thank you again!"

Li then gave Apatang a book titled *The Minghui Report: The 20-Year Persecution of Falun Gong in China* as a gift. The book details the decades of persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners in China and the Chinese government's alleged frequent cover-ups of their actions. The book received the Benjamin Franklin Award on May 14, an honor bestowed to publications by the Independent Book Publishers Association.

The ceremony was part of the group's month long celebration of Falun Dafa, which saw motorcade parades and other events before, during, and after Falun Dafa Day on May 13.

## Employees of Tinian Executive Branch now 100% vaccinated

In compliance with the governor's directive to all Executive Branch departments and activity heads last Feb. 19, 2021, Executive Branch employees on Tinian are now 100% fully vaccinated.

There are roughly 300 employees under Tinian's Executive Branch—all of whom have completed their COVID-19 vaccinations, excluding employees who have sought medical or religious exemptions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected states, territories, and countries globally, hence the sentiment behind the governor's mandate to promote a healthy and safe working environment for all government employees, most es-

specially the community members who we serve on a daily basis.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 vaccine will not prevent individuals from getting infected; however, it will lessen the symptoms associated with contracting the virus by creating an antibody (immune system) response. How the vaccine may potentially reduce the spread of the virus continues to be studied by experts, but the COVID-19 vaccine is an important component in the effort to end this global pandemic.

Despite being fully vaccinated, the COVID-19 Task Force urges everyone to continue to adhere to the safety protocols

and precautionary measures that are established as the 3Ws, such as: wearing a mask, watching your distance (6 feet apart from others), and washing your hands to prevent community spread.

The Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan applauds Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the COVID-19 Task Force, and all the first responders and front-liners for their sacrifice, hard work, and dedication in continuing to keep our people and islands safe from this global pandemic.

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines, visit [www.vaccinatecnmi.com](http://www.vaccinatecnmi.com), or call (670) 682-SHOT/7468. (PR)

# SLASHED

## Prices out of this galaxy!

<b>Samsung Galaxy S20</b> \$49 \$80 Unlimited Plan	<b>Samsung Galaxy S20+</b> \$129 \$80 Unlimited Plan	<b>Samsung Galaxy S20 Ultra</b> \$299 \$80 Unlimited Plan	<b>Samsung Galaxy A71</b> \$49 \$80 Unlimited Plan	<b>Samsung Galaxy A21</b> \$29 \$50 Unlimited Plan
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EARN PACIFIC POINTS

IT&E

**BANK***From Page 1*

after a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by board chair Jose “Joe” C. Ayuyu.

With a million-dollar investment, the bank has renewed its commitment to the Northern Marianas when it brought to life an old, unoccupied building and refurbished it to become a vibrant, modern banking facility designed to deliver efficiency and convenience to customers.

Founded nearly 43 years ago by the late Larry Hillblom and by the Tan and Calvo families, Ayuyu reflected on the bank’s “interesting long journey.” “...We have gone through a lot of difficult times but that’s what life is all about; there’s going to be good times and bad times. The most important thing in life is that we are enjoying the moment and Bank of Saipan is here and we have been around for



The new Bank of Saipan headquarters offers a spacious facility that clients will be able to do any kind of transaction with ease and comfort.

40 years,” he said in his speech. “... There are other banks on island that are bigger than us...[but] we serve a small niche in the community that needs us. ...Customers that are mar-

ginalized, that probably cannot qualify for loans from big banks. ...We know we are small but this is why we have a place in the community.”

Bank of Saipan’s new location is a

be released Thursday.

As the economic recovery strengthens, concerns have been growing about rising inflation pressures. Last month, consumer prices surged by the largest amount in a decade. The NABE’s respondents expect inflation of 2.8% this year and 2.3% next year. Last year, inflation amounted to just 1.2%.

But Holly Wade, chair of the NABE’s survey committee, noted that the forecasters believe that any acceleration in inflation will be short-lived.

“Inflation expectations moved up significantly from those in the March survey, but panelists anticipate inflation easing in the second half of 2021,” Wade said.

More than half the panelists—56%—believe the economy’s balance of risks are tilted to the positive side, with the government’s spending aid programs and proposed infrastructure measures now pending in Congress seen as likely drivers of growth.

ing pandemic recession, the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Significant government aid is widely credited as a key factor. Last year, Congress approved \$4 trillion in support measures after the recession, which had cost tens of millions of jobs. And in March, President Joe Biden pushed through \$1.9 trillion in additional support this year, a package that included \$1,400 payments to most individuals.

With viral cases dwindling, consumers increasing spending and more businesses reopening and hiring, economists have been upgrading their forecasts. The NABE panel expects the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, to grow at an 8.5% annual rate in the current April-June quarter, up sharply from a 5.2% forecast in March. The government has estimated that the economy grew at a 6.4% annual rate in the January-March quarter, a figure that it will likely revise up in a report to

infrastructure projects in the CNMI.

In his latest demand letter, Torres said if DPL fails to remit the \$5.62 million, MPLT shall seek the assistance of the Office of the Attorney General to compel the remittance as well as request the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate why DPL would continue to violate its fiduciary and constitutional obligations.

Torres said the MPLT trustees do not favor suing for a declaratory judgment against DPL, nor is a lawsuit necessary. He said the Commonwealth can be better served by compliance and fidelity to the Constitution for the beneficiaries. “With this mutual interest in mind, MPLT hopes that DPL would reconsider and remit the funds without delay,” he said.

However, after exhausting efforts for a good faith resolution, then the MPLT trustees are prepared to carry out their constitutional rights and duties to compel the remittance of funds for investment for the benefit of persons of Northern Marianas descent,

Torres said.

In his previous demand letter to Concepcion-Teregeyo, Torres sought the remittance of at least \$4,451,471 to MPLT. In response, Torres said, Concepcion-Teregeyo remitted this amount, which was reported as due to MPLT in the fiscal year 2019 audit.

The lawyer said this is laudable but falls short of the remittance of the entire amount due and proper to MPLT as required by Public Law 15-2 and the CNMI Constitution.

Torres said demand is made upon the DPL secretary and DPL to remit the sum of \$5.62 million within 30 days or on or before June 12, 2021. He said if DPL fails to remit the amount on or before June 12, MPLT shall undertake all measures to compel DPL’s compliance with constitutional and statutory mandates, including its responsibilities and that of its secretary as a co-trustee/fiduciary of public land lease funds.

The lawyer said DPL has continued the improper and unlawful practice of allocating funds for homestead development, which has been determined as without authority.

He said the Legislature appropriates funds (including those remitted by MPLT from interest income) for Capital Improvement Projects.

Similarly, Torres said DPL has continued its efforts to “reserve for next fiscal year” funds for which it has no authority either by the CNMI Constitution or its enabling act to do.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

“loan rooms” that guarantee privacy where bank officers and clients can talk freely and comfortably. The second floor is where the boardroom, corporate, and executive offices are located. The third floor has a vast open space for bank events or private get-togethers with clients and guests. Clients are also assured of ample parking spaces.

According to Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Z. Arroyo, bank management has caught up with technology and this will be evident in the bank’s new services. First is the “Teller Pod,” where tellers can actually leave their stations and greet the customers at the door, find out what they need help with and then bring them over to their station. “The staff has been trained...and it is one of the things that we’re known for anyway. Really, it’s just the hospitality and friendliness,” he said.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

**BUSINESS***From Page 1*

vaccinations, stronger job gains and further government aid will accelerate growth to its fastest pace in nearly four decades.

A survey being released Monday by the National Association for Business Economics found that its panel expects the economy to expand 6.5% this year. That would be the sharpest such increase since 1984, when the nation was also emerging from a deep recession.

The NABE’s findings, based on the responses of 49 forecasters earlier this month, sketched a far brighter picture of the economy than its previous such survey, released in March, did. In that survey, the economists had collectively envisioned growth of just 4.8% this year.

The economy has been showing surprising strength and resilience in its recovery from the devasta-

**\$5.62M***From Page 1*

the Deloitte & Touche financial audit of the CNMI government as to DPL in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 found that \$4,451,471 was due to MPLT.

However, he said, the audit also reported the action by DPL to “improperly segregate and allocate funds in the amount of \$5.62 million for itself without lawful authority.”

Torres said the funds pertain to \$516,696 for homestead projects, \$4,103,865 reserved for the ensuing fiscal year 2020 budget, and \$1 million holding in reserve funds from DPL’s settlement agreement.

Torres addressed the demand letter to DPL acting secretary Irene Tudela-Torres. The letter dated May 20, 2021 was concurred by MPLT chair Martin B. Ada.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from DPL.

Torres earlier sent the first demand letter to Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo before she stepped down as DPL secretary and became head of the newly-created Infrastructure and Recovery Program office that is supposed to streamline the close to a billion dollars’ worth of recovery and

think they closed the books on my granddaughters. I think they’re still pursuing other information and other avenues of information if there is anything coming in,” he said.

As of now, they haven’t heard anything yet with respect to the investigation. “It’s still an open investigation,” said Quitugua, adding that the FBI and DPS are still communicating with the family.

Every now and then, the FBI “touches base” with them, he said, especially the Family Support Center in Hawaii.

“They’re [FBI] still supporting us by calling us, checking us out,” he said. “Still a painful day for us tomorrow, but we hope and pray that somebody out there would come forward.”

He said although the FBI is not currently doing a massive search for the sisters, the investigation is still open and active.

“As much as we want to pray and hope that they are...you know...God only knows where they are,” he said.

Quitugua said they just want to find out what happened to his granddaughters. “Who’s responsible? If they are alive, where are they?” he asked.

Quitugua said his daughter, who is the mother of Maleina and Faloma, currently lives in the U.S. mainland. He believes the father of the children is still in Chuuk. “As far as everybody in the family, especially the mother of my granddaughters, as much as we want to believe and hope that they are alive—we wish that very much—but 10 years is a long time,” Quitugua said.

Last year, due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no Mass of special intention or remembrance for the sisters—a first. Instead, the family prayed last year at the makeshift shrine that the family had built on the spot in As Teo where the Luhk sisters were last seen.

Quitugua’s residence, where the Luhk sisters lived, is just a few meters away from the school bus shelter.

The FBI, DPS, and other law enforcers and volunteers on Saipan searched the island and coastal areas, jungles, caves, for about a month, but there was no trace of their whereabouts.

three-story facility along Beach Road and each floor houses essential services to the bank’s clientele. The first floor is where all bank transactions are accommodated, from over-the-counter deposits and withdrawals, to new accounts as well as separate

**LUHK***From Page 1*

and 10 years old, respectively, when they disappeared on the morning of May 25, 2011. Both just had their birthdays last February. Maleina and Faloma Luhk would have been 19 and 20 years old now, respectively.

The sisters were last reported waiting for the school bus that early morning of May 25, 2011, at a bus shelter along As Teo Drive in the corner of Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo. In that brief time, they disappeared without a trace, triggering an island-wide search that drew many volunteers in the community.

The family will be holding a Mass of special intention at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa, today, Tuesday, at 6am.

Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the Luhk sisters, said in an interview yesterday at their residence in As Teo that close family and friends will have Mass of special intention and that whoever wants to attend is welcome.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Honolulu Division special agent-in-charge Steven Merrill said yesterday that the FBI has been dedicated to working with the CNMI Department of Public Safety for the past decade to find the missing girls.

Ten years later, the FBI still maintains an open investigation on the matter, Merrill said, and remains steadfast in its commitment to find the girls and exact justice.

He said the FBI is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information regarding the whereabouts of the two sisters.

Merrill said they are grateful for the input received and continue to encourage anyone with information to come forward.

“If you, or someone you know, have information concerning the whereabouts of Faloma and Maleina Luhk, please contact the FBI’s Saipan Office at 670-322-6934,” Merrill said.

Quitugua, 67, said it is his understanding that the investigation by the FBI and the Department of Public Safety is still going on. “I don’t

# Five CNMI residents to attend US Coast Guard Academy

A record five CNMI residents have received appointments to the Coast Guard Academy Scholars program.

Pultimo Palacios-Camacho, Kyle San Nicolas, Noah Mesa, David Igisomar, and Seiji Gonzales completed the rigorous application process, which included a full college application, physical fitness test, and comprehensive medical exam to meet the high bar for acceptance. They will all attend a college preparatory school for one year and, upon completion of that program, will automatically gain an appointment to the Coast Guard Academy Class of 2026, to enter the New London, Connecticut school in the summer of 2022.

Palacios-Camacho, 17, is from Dandan and is a graduate of Mount Carmel School. She is the daughter of Velma Palacios and Paul Camacho, and intends on majoring in Marine and Environmental Science at the academy.

Mesa, Igisomar, and Gonzales are all graduating seniors from Kagman High School.

Mesa, 17, hails from San Vicente and is the son of Tania Atalig and Peter Mesa. He intends on majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Igisomar, 17, from Kagman, is the son of Antonia and Rajendra Shrestha. He intends on majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Gonzales, 17, is the son of the late Charlene Suzuki Gonzales, and John "Bolis" Gonzales. From Sadog Tasi, he intends on majoring in Management. His older brother, now Cadet 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Genzo Gonzales, is currently a rising sophomore at the Coast Guard Academy and also attended the CGAS program.

San Nicolas, 20, graduated from Kagman High School in 2019. After a year at the

Northern Marianas College receiving high marks, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in May 2020 and is currently serving onboard USCGC *Campbell* homeported in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. While serving there, he completed a multi-national exercise in the Arctic Circle, conducting



Igisomar



San Nicolas



Mesa



Gonzales

operations off the coast of Greenland, and also completed a counter-narcotics patrol off the coast of Central America, combatting the shipment of illicit drugs entering the United States. He is the son of Beatriz Tanate San Nicolas and Donald San Nicolas of Kagman, and intends on majoring in Marine and Environmental Science.

Acceptance to the Coast Guard Academy is less than 10%, and only two residents from the CNMI have ever graduated—Lt. Commander Christine Torres Igisomar (2008), and Lt. Freddy Hofsneider III (2013). Igisomar currently serves as the military aide to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Karl Schultz. Hofsneider recently took command of the USCGC *Maui*, homeported in Manama,

Bahrain in the Persian Gulf. These new five appointments mark a turning point in the visibility of the Coast Guard Academy as a college opportunity for high-performing CNMI students.

Typical selectees to the academy achieve 3.7 or higher GPAs in high school, are leaders on sports teams and show character through participating in community and extracurricular activities. Applicants must be no older than 23 on the day they arrive at the Coast Guard Academy; must be unmarried and have no dependents; must be a U.S. citizen; and have no medical conditions that would prevent them from serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. Cadets are provided a fully funded \$400,000 education, which includes tuition, room and board, food, uniforms, books, complete medical and dental care, and all military benefits such as access to military commissaries and exchanges. Cadets also receive a monthly stipend of about \$1,000.

Upon graduation, cadets receive their Bachelor of Science degree in their chosen major and a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard. They are required to serve as officers for five years after graduation, though the Coast Guard has the highest officer retention rate among all the other U.S. military services.

One of the biggest differences between the Coast

Guard Academy and the other federal service academies is that there is no requirement for a congressional nomination, so there is no limit to the number of

residents from the CNMI that can get accepted any given year. For those wishing to increase their chances of acceptance, applying during the Early Action pe-

riod with a deadline of Oct. 15 is highly encouraged. Those who wish to apply should contact Igisomar at Christine.T.Igisomar@uscg.mil. (PR)

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PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

**CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**Head Start/Early Head Start Program**  
Serving Eligible Children and Families

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## Samoa in crisis as elected leader locked out of Parliament

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—Samoa was plunged into a constitutional crisis Monday when the woman who won an election last month was locked out of Parliament and the previous leader claimed he remained in charge.

The fast-moving events marked the latest twist in a bitter power struggle that has been playing out in the small Pacific nation since it elected its first female leader. Not only is Samoa's peace and stability at stake, but also its relationship with China.

On Monday morning, Prime Minister-elect Fiame Naomi Mata'afa and her supporters showed up at parliament to form a new government, but were not allowed inside.

The nation's Supreme Court had earlier ordered the Parliament to convene. And the constitution requires that lawmakers meet within 45 days of an election, with Monday marking the final day by that count.

But Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, who was prime minister for 22 years before his unexpected election loss, doesn't appear ready to give

up power. He was already one of the longest-serving leaders in the world.

Two powerful allies have been supporting Tuilaepa.

The nation's head of state, Tuimalealiiifano Va'aletaoa Sualauvi II, wrote in a proclamation last week that he was suspending Parliament "for reasons that I will make known in due course." On Sunday, the Parliament's speaker backed him.

After Fiame was locked out on Monday, Tuilaepa held a news conference proclaiming his government re-

mained in charge.

Samoan journalist Lagipoiava Cherelle Jackson translated the back-and-forth into English on Twitter.

At his news conference, Tuilaepa said: "There is only one government in Samoa, even if we are just the custodian government. We remain in this role and operate business as usual."

Meanwhile, Fiame told her supporters: "There will be a

time when we will meet again, inside that House. Let us leave it to the law."

Tuilaepa's election win was seen as a milestone not only for Samoa, which is conservative and Christian, but also for the South Pacific, which has had few female leaders.

An advocate for women's equality, Fiame, who was born in 1957, broke new ground during her campaign by going

on the road and robustly criticizing the incumbent.

She has pledged to stop a \$100 million port development backed by Beijing, calling the project excessive for a nation that's already heavily in debt to China, according to news broadcaster RNZ.

Fiame said she intends to maintain good relations with China but has more pressing needs to address, RNZ reported.

## Iakopo bolsters 9th MSC's support of CNMI

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley Iakopo met with Brig. Gen. Timothy D. Connelly earlier this month at the 9th Mission Support Command Headquarters in Fort Shafter in Honolulu, Hawaii to discuss the 9th Mission Support Command's role, commitment, and support of the CNMI during disaster relief through the Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

Iakopo shared that his meeting with Connelly was "a great opportunity to share information" and was a great help in further strengthening the relationship between Saipan's Army Reserve and the rest of the 9th MSC.

"As the commanding general of the 9th Mission Support Command, I am proud to represent all of the soldiers of America's Army Reserve, particularly those 9th MSC soldiers assigned to our Army Reserve units in [the] CNMI, in partnership with local CNMI community leaders and members. ...I want to thank the governor of CNMI and mayor of Saipan for all the support over the years to the great



Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley Iakopo, right, shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Timothy Connelly, commanding general of the 9th Mission Support Command, after their meeting earlier this month at Fort Shafter in Honolulu, Hawaii.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

soldiers and units of 9th Mission Support Command," said Connelly.

According to the 9th MSC website, the 9th Mission Support Command is a U.S. Army Reserve Command under the operational control of U.S. Army Pacific with a command composed of approximately 3,500 Army Reserve soldiers and 160 civilians throughout the Pacific to include Hawaii, Alaska, American Sa-

moa, Japan, Korea, Guam, and Saipan.

The Defense Support of Civil Authorities, or DSCA, is a process where the United States allocates military assets and personnel to assist in missions that would normally be carried out by civilians/civilian leadership. For the CNMI, DSCA was used to mobilize 9th MSC personnel to provide disaster relief after Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
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**INVITATION FOR BIDS [IFB]**

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

**Amendment No. 1**

**NMHC IFB 2021-010**

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:**  
May 26, 2021, 10:00 a.m. June 02, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

**Apengah St. and Ghilis St. Road and Drainage Improvement Project**

Project package will be available on April 26, 2021, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be by cash, credit card, cashier's check or certified check made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented in order to obtain the project package.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on May 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab or by visiting the www.cnmicdbgrd.com website. Bidders are encouraged to email the Procurement Officer of their intent to participate in the pre-bid conference via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net at least one day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
PHONE: (670) 237-6500 / FAX: (670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTC.COM WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIMPORTS.COM

**NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-21**  
**CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01-02**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at [cpa.admin@ptc.com](mailto:cpa.admin@ptc.com) with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at [jtenorio@cnmimports.com](mailto:jtenorio@cnmimports.com) no later than May 06, 2021.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-21."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, **May 25, 2021**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on May 25, 2021, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire(s) to operate such concessions to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION CPA-TA-001-20**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion, CPA-TA-001-20.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmimports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmimports.com).

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at the CPA Administration Office or emailed to [wprater@cnmimports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmimports.com) by no later than 5:00 p.m., local time, Friday, June 11, 2021.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: 5/20/21

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CPA-RA-003-17**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Drainage Improvements, CPA-RA-003-17.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmimports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmimports.com).

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at the CPA Administration Office or emailed to [wprater@cnmimports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmimports.com) by no later than 5:00 p.m., local time, Friday, June 11, 2021.

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The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: 5/20/21

# NMC Commencement Ceremony



From left, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and interim president Frankie Eliptico along with the NMC Board of Regents stand for the national anthem. **NMC**



NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico delivered the college commencement address to the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. **NMC**



NMC graduates at the Saipan World Resort pose for a photo. **NMC**



NMC graduate Ezekiel Macario, center, is seen with other graduates at the Saipan World Resort, one of three sites used for NMC's Commencement Exercise. **NMC**



NMC graduates at the Crowne Plaza, one of three sites used for NMC's Commencement Exercise. **NMC**



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres pose with NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico and the NMC Board of Regents. **NMC**

NMC graduate Adelpha Magofna shows the shaka sign during the NMC Commencement Exercise. **NMC**



NMC interim vice president Charlotte Cepeda, along with NMC faculty, make their way toward the commencement exercise held at Crowne Plaza, one of the sites used for the ceremony. **NMC**



NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico poses with NMC graduates before the commencement exercise began.



NMC graduates Victoria Matsunaga and Maia Pangelinan pose with NMC chief financial officer Dave Attao. **NMC**



NMC graduate Jeremiah Camacho gives a shaka for the camera. **NMC**



Criminal Justice graduates at Crowne Plaza. NMC's commencement exercise also included the conferral of bachelor degrees for University of Guam students who were enrolled in the criminal justice program through a partnership between NMC and UOG. **NMC**



Graduate Nate Camacho, center, poses with Zerlyn Taimanao, left, and interim president Frankie Eliptico. **NMC**

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### The US must do more to vaccinate the world

The Biden administration's decision to begin sharing U.S.-authorized COVID-19 vaccines with the rest of the world is welcome news. Now coronavirus czar Jeff Zients, who will lead U.S. efforts to fight the pandemic abroad, must swiftly craft a global vaccine strategy that's as focused, ambitious and effective as the one that's worked so well domestically.

Those who ask whether the U.S. ought to assume this burden should remember two things.

First, progress at home will count for less if the pandemic rages unchecked abroad. Americans might be vulnerable to new variants. Trillions in output will be lost if trade and travel continue to be disrupted. And as the global death toll mounts, instability and resentment of the U.S. and other rich countries will grow.

Second, the U.S. is uniquely qualified to lead the effort. It could soon have hundreds of millions of excess vaccine doses. It has the most influence with several of the key vaccine developers, and the most diplomatic clout. Having worked on the ground for years to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, it has expertise and longstanding relationships with public health officials in developing nations. More recently, it has begun to learn how to cope with vaccine hesitancy and misinformation.

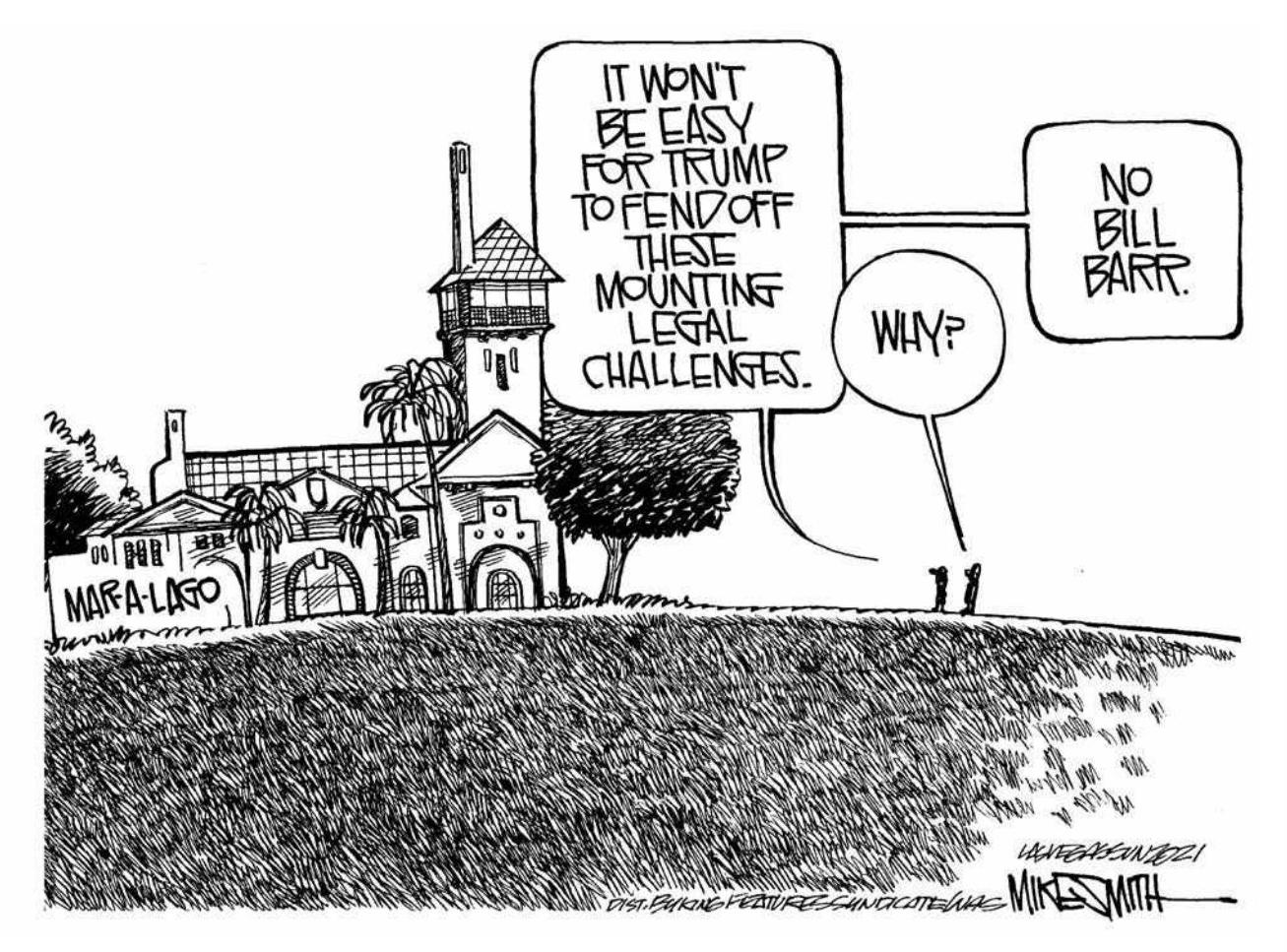
Success, however, will require more than the administration's current piecemeal efforts. Its recent pledge to share 20 million Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson doses by the end of June—in addition to 60 million AstraZeneca shots once they're cleared by regulators—will meet only a very small fraction of global need. The U.S. decision to support a patent waiver for COVID-19 vaccines will do little except fuel months of debate among trade officials.

An effective strategy needs a clear international schedule for sharing hundreds of millions of more doses before the end of the year. Many should be donated to COVAX, the global facility for delivering vaccines to poor nations, which is short of supplies. Other doses could be earmarked for specific countries based on stated criteria—caseloads, fatality rates, distribution capacity and, most importantly, commitment to provide vaccinations to the highest-need groups, such as health care workers and people over age 60.

The U.S. should also help to get those shots into arms. It should work with fellow G-7 nations to fund efforts by the World Health Organization to improve delivery capacity in poorer nations. And American officials can help countries more directly by advising on logistics, distribution, and training of health workers, and by fighting vaccine misinformation.

Finally, the U.S. needs to rally its partners behind a massive effort to scale up global vaccine production. The U.S. should expand manufacturing capacity at home—in part by addressing shortages of critical inputs such as bioreactor

See US on Next Page



### Princess Diana scandal is a genuine crisis for the BBC

It was the most explosive television interview in the history of the British monarchy and the BBC. In 1995 Princess Diana revealed to millions of viewers around the world that there were "three people" in her marriage to Prince Charles—the third party being the heir to the throne's mistress, and now wife, Camilla Parker Bowles. Diana's divorce, departure from the Royal Family and untimely death followed.

But how did the inexperienced BBC reporter Martin Bashir get his scoop of a lifetime? A devastating report published this week by John Dyson, a former judge, found that the journalist secured his interview on the "Panorama" news program by way of forgery. He faked the documents that persuaded Diana's brother Charles Spencer to introduce him to his sister, and he allegedly lied to Diana to fuel her paranoia about the Royal Family and the British establishment, and so get her to dish the dirt.

There was a huge media scrum in the 1990s to get the princess's story. Diana, as I knew from meeting her, liked to brief journalists but was wary of having her fingerprints on stories. Bashir's deception got her to break cover.

Now, in an emotional video, Diana's son Prince William has condemned the program as "a major contribution to making my parents' relationship worse and has since hurt countless others." He concludes correctly that the BBC "not only let my mother down, and my family down; they let the public down too." The usual platitudes trotted out on these occasions from handwringing executives about "lessons being learned" won't do. A real revolution must follow at the U.K.'s state broadcaster.

If this were only a story about one rogue reporter, the BBC would still be hanging its collective head in shame. But this is a genuine crisis for the corporation, which is paid for by a compulsory license fee on British viewers and given its charter by royal assent.

Both the BBC's many friends and its numerous enemies have concluded that the cover-up of Bashir's actions was worse than the crime. Newspapers and rival broadcasters smelled a rat from

By MARTIN IVENS  
Bloomberg Opinion

Martin Ivens was editor of the Sunday Times from 2013 to 2020 and was formerly its chief political commentator. He is a director of the Times Newspapers board.



the beginning, but a slew of BBC news executives—all of whom rose to greater eminence and one of whom, Tony Hall, later became the BBC's director general—perfunctorily investigated the reporter's work and exonerated him quickly. According to Dyson's inquiry, Bashir faked bank statements and showed them to Spencer. The documents suggested members of the royal household were paid to keep his sister under surveillance.

A graphic designer who tried to blow the whistle on Bashir's forgeries was barred from working for the BBC. The shutters at Broadcasting House, the corporation's headquarters, came down as newspapers continued to investigate the story behind the story. The BBC provided what Dyson described as "evasive answers" to legitimate press inquiries.

When the BBC mounted its own investigation of Bashir in 1996, it already knew that he'd told lies yet decided to accept his testimony. A letter of reprimand to Bashir had been drafted. It was probably never sent because there was no record of it in his employment records. Hall concluded that Bashir was "honest and honorable."

Neither Hall nor Anne Sloman, who conducted that investigation, interviewed Spencer. Dyson finds their explanation for this "wholly unconvincing." Perhaps it was simply too embarrassing to dig beneath "the scoop of the century." The BBC signaled

See PRINCESS on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## How to do your homework before buying property

**F**or many people, buying land or a home will be one of the biggest deals of their lives. For others, it might be a garden-variety Tuesday. But whichever camp you fall into, you'll want to do your homework before buying a property. Otherwise, you could be in for some unpleasant surprises in the future.

The first step is to check out several properties, not just one. By looking at several properties, you'll begin to get a sense of the market. And that will give you a better idea of prices, options, and the like. Knowing those things will help you make a quick, confident decision when the right property falls into your lap.

If you'll need a loan, you may also want to speak with lenders ahead of time. Getting pre-approved for a loan or, at least figuring out around how much money you might get will help you focus on property in your price range and allow you to move quickly when the time is right.

Once you've identified a property, the real work begins. Start by confirming that the seller actually has the right to sell the property. This sounds obvious but all sorts of ownership issues can arise. A common one in the CNMI are people who treat property as their own even though it really belongs to a dead family member. In these cases, the dead person's "estate" must go through probate before a living family member can officially own the property and, by extension, have the right to sell or lease it.

The easiest and safest way to find out whether the seller actually owns the property is to obtain a preliminary title report. A PTR is not a government document; instead, it is a report issued by a title-insurance company describing the chain of ownership from the first owner to the current owner. It will also say if the property has been leased and whether there are any mortgages or other liens on the property. On Saipan, two companies currently issue PTRs: Security Title and Pacific American Title. The first is located on Capital Hill, the second is in Susupe.

While verifying ownership, the next safeguard is to double-check the property's boundaries. Just because a seller claims that a property has certain boundaries doesn't make it so.

Take a common example. Let's say a father owns a big chunk of land and then passes away, leaving five children. Following probate, each child gets one-fifth of the land. Over 20 years, each uses the land with little thought about the formal boundaries of each property. Later, one of the children sells their piece to some-

**US**

*From Page 8*

bags and filters—and encourage companies to license their technology to new partners abroad. Speed is essential. The G-7 countries should work together to set up and sustain supply chains, train staff, inspect facilities and pay for more doses.

In the longer run, the U.S. should press for new regional networks for vaccine production, especially of the potent mRNA vaccines that are likely to be most valuable in future pandemics. After 1945, open-handed help for capacity-building in countries in desperate need earned the U.S. decades of goodwill and geopolitical influence. The global pandemic demands the same kind of ambition.

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**PRINCESS**

*From Page 8*

its intentions from the start in that draft reprimand: "We believe there is no purpose served by making this a matter of public record." Maybe too many careers would have been blighted.

A quarter of a century later it took the release of the forged documents by Spencer to force the BBC into holding the independent Dyson inquiry. Tim Davie, the new director general, also commissioned a senior reporter from "Panorama" to produce a documentary investigation into the affair. The Conservative government already suspects the corporation of metropolitan bias against Brexit and the Tory party, and it's itching to intervene.

A former colleague at my old newspaper, the *Sunday Times*, once joked that all it took to be a good reporter was "a plausible manner and rat-like cunning." But this goes much further. Alas, media scandals are not infrequent. The lust for an exclusive drives many to underhand tactics. In the U.S. journalists have been fired

one outside the family. What happens next? You guessed it: Disagreements about where one property ends and the other begins.

Or consider another surprisingly frequent event. A person buys a building. Then they start renovating only to discover that one of the walls is actually built on a neighboring lot. Now they need to make a deal with the neighbor or knock down the encroaching wall. Much better to find that out before buying the building.

How does a careful buyer prevent boundary problems from transforming their investment into a nightmare? Get a boundary survey from a seasoned surveyor. Doing so will confirm access points and boundary lines as well as identifying any encroachments.

If you are buying a building, you'll also want to get the property inspected. Have a qualified person check out the roof, plumbing, electrical, appliances and so on. And then have them give you a report. If all is clear, great. If not, walk away or request a lower price.

If you are planning to develop the property, make sure that you can use the property for your intended purpose. You may not be able to. That's because Saipan has a zoning law establishing how different areas of the island can be used. For example, if a part of the island has been designated as a residential area, then it generally cannot be used for a non-residential purpose like a hotel, a hospital, or a factory—although occasionally the Zoning Board or the Legislature may grant an exception.

Another often overlooked area is environmental issues. For instance, is there a wetland on the property? If so, CNMI law strongly restricts and sometimes flatly prohibits development. Is

**FINE PRINT**

**By JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on *The Fine Print* on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or 235-6397/235-2440.

the property in a floodplain? Again, development restrictions may apply (on top of all the other issues that apply to building in a flood-prone location). Are there any endangered animals on the property? If so, you'll need to reach into your wallet to pay remediation costs. You may also need to halt your project until the issue has been addressed, a process that can take half a year or more.

Bottom line: Buying real estate can be a great investment. But many traps are lurking. So, it's important to do your homework before handing over your hard-earned money.

*This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.*

## Why I feel connected to Israel

**I**believe the Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely and to enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity and democracy," said President Joe Biden following news of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

As the latest geographic conflict between Israel and the Palestinians came to a halt, my mind drifted back to a quieter and more peaceful time visiting Jerusalem's Old City.

The highlight of my two trips to Israel was a visit to the holiest site in the Jewish faith—the Western Wall.

At the sacred site, as a tourist, a civilian, and most importantly, a Jew, I wrapped myself in tefillin, prayed for world peace and placed a note between the ancient limestone cracks.

I was fulfilling a prophecy that my grandfather never had the opportunity to do at the same age due to the nearly 20 years the eastern portion of Jerusalem was under Jordanian control, barring Jews from the Old City.

When reflecting on those past travels to the Land of Milk and Honey, my heart also aches for the innocent lives lost on both sides, and the families that are left to pick up the pieces.

As a civilian living in the diaspora, I can sympathize with the people whose lives are so often at risk. Through them, I feel connected to Israel.

Delaware native Natalie Sopinsky, a mother of five and a first responder who lives near Hebron, spoke about being on the ground during the crisis.

"Every time war occurs here, which is every five years on average, all Israelis are affected. No matter what role we play in

**By ALAN GOCH**

South Florida Sun Sentinel



Alan Goch is the editor of the South Florida Jewish Journal, the largest weekly Jewish newspaper in the U.S., and has been with the publication 30 years.

life. The fact that we are first responders...well...we feel it more in some ways because we now have a new crisis on our hands. We are responders. Reactors. We get called, we come running," said the director of development for Rescuers Without Borders—Hatzalah.

Andrea (Milstone) Dray, a resident of Yokneam, Israel, made aliyah nearly 25 years ago from Sunrise, Florida.

Regardless of unrest in her homeland, Dray would not live anywhere else.

"On a very personal level, it angers me that we can't be left alone to live in peace. Although it is quite frightening at times, I have complete faith in Israel's military to do what has to be done in order to restore normalcy to the country as a whole."

"All in all I still feel blessed to be living in Israel."

My dream is for the day I can return to the Western Wall and pray once again for eternal peace.

nalism. This must change.

As editor of the *Sunday Times* I mounted some tough investigations that landed me and the newspaper in court. I worked with versatile, hard-bitten journalists, including the *Insight* investigations team. But in every instance I sat alongside a media lawyer who insisted on a paper trail. Every step had to be tested to see whether the methods employed were justified in the public interest. Complicated inquiries in which we invested time and effort were sometimes aborted. We made mistakes but we had to perform the checks, had to be thorough and had to know the pitfalls.

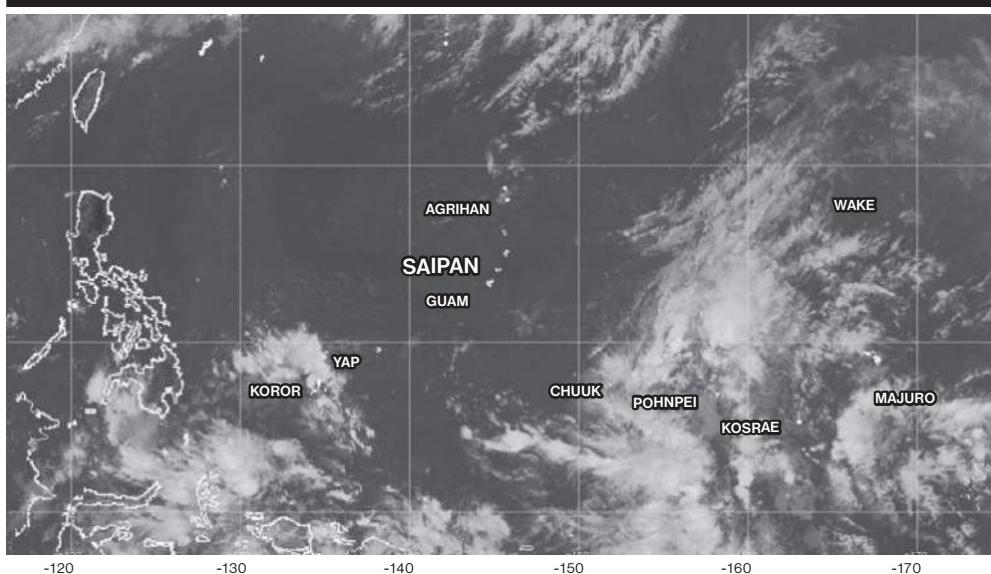
The BBC now needs to call on the expertise of outside news and current affairs veterans from broadcasting and print media to help police its internal investigations. It should set up a board that's fit for purpose and not wait for the government to act. It would be better for Davie and the BBC to impose self-regulation with real teeth than have regulation thrust upon it by hostile external forces.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°
76°	86°	76°	86°	76°

### YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas waters this morning. A surface trough of low pressure near 158E is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well to the east of the Marianas. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of trade-wind swell from just north of east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp), follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	89   81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85   78 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	86   74 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87   81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85   80 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85   81 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85   81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:25 AM	5:26 PM
Wednesday	-	5:15 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	-	6:10 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:45 PM
Saturday	-	8:13 AM	9:48 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Sunny	58   47 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	89   75 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	81   77 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	82   73 °F
London	Cloudy	72   56 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	84   62 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	88   79 °F
Melbourne	Rain	63   54 °F
Miami	Sunny	85   76 °F
New York	Rain	72   57 °F
Osaka	Sunny	79   58 °F
Paris	Sunny	70   52 °F
Pusan	Mostly sunny	88   62 °F
Rome	Sunny	82   57 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	72   47 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	72   52 °F
Seoul	Sunny	84   60 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	80   65 °F
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	76   58 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:06 AM	Low Tide	0.93
5:53 AM	High Tide	2.21
12:51 PM	Low Tide	-0.05
7:31 PM	High Tide	2.10

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 3, 5, 6, 7				UA174 4:50am 5:31am 1, 3, 5, 6, 7							
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184/174 9:50pm 5:31am+1 5 via Guam							
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184 9:50pm 3:45am+1 5							
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				UA184 10:25pm 4:10am+1 1, 3							
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021											
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202 8:00 8:15 Daily							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00 9:15 Daily						
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00 10:15 Daily						
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily								

# Business

## Biden's solar ambitions collide with China labor complaints

**BEIJING** (AP)—The Biden administration's solar power ambitions are colliding with complaints the global industry depends on Chinese raw materials that might be produced by forced labor.

A big hurdle is polysilicon, used to make photovoltaic cells for solar panels. The global industry gets 45% of its supply from Xinjiang, the northwestern region where the ruling Communist Party is accused of mass incarceration of minorities and other abuses. Other parts of China supply 35%. Only 20% comes from U.S. and other producers.

Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, says Washington is deciding whether to keep solar products from Xinjiang out of U.S. markets. That sets up a conflict with President Joe Biden's plans to cut climate-changing carbon emissions by promoting solar and other renewable energy while also reducing costs.

In Xinjiang, more than 1 million Uyghurs and other members of predominantly Muslim ethnic groups have been forced into detention camps, according to foreign researchers and governments. Authorities are accused of forced sterilizations of minorities and of destroying mosques.

Chinese officials reject accusations of abuse and say the camps are for job training



AP

In this Jan. 5, 2021, file photo, an employee works at a solar panel and solar equipment factory in Jiujiang in central China's Jiangxi Province.

aimed at economic development and deterring radicalism.

U.S. and some Chinese solar vendors have pledged to avoid suppliers that might use forced labor. It isn't clear, however, whether they can meet rising demand without Xinjiang, where Beijing won't allow independent inspections of workplaces.

The biggest manufactur-

ers all use raw materials from Xinjiang and have a "high risk of forced labor in their supply chains," according to a May 14 report by researchers Laura T. Murphy and Nyrola Elimaat of Britain's Sheffield Hallam University.

The possibility of forced labor "is a problem," Kerry told U.S. legislators last week. He cited "solar panels that we be-

lieve in some cases are being produced by forced labor."

Western governments have imposed travel and financial restrictions on Chinese officials blamed for abuses. The U.S. government has banned imports of cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang, citing concerns over forced labor.

The administration was assessing whether to extend that ban to solar panels and raw materials from Xinjiang,

Kerry said. He said he didn't know the status of that review.

At issue is the government's "labor transfer" program, which places workers in Xinjiang with companies.

Chinese officials say it is voluntary, but Murphy and Elimaat argue it takes place in "an environment of unprecedented coercion" and is "undergirded by the constant threat of re-education and internment."

"Many indigenous workers are unable to refuse or walk away from these jobs," their report says. It says the programs are "tantamount to forcible transfer of populations and enslavement."

Murphy and Elimaat said they found 11 companies engaged in forced labor transfers of Uyghurs and other minorities and 90 Chinese and foreign enterprises whose supply chains are affected. They said manufacturers need to make "significant changes" if they want to avoid suppliers that use forced labor.

Murphy and Elimaat say the biggest global solar equipment manufacturers — JinkoSolar Inc., LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Trina Solar Energy Co. and JA Solar Holdings Co. — might have forced labor in their supply chains.

Trina and JinkoSolar also have "possible labor transfers" in factories, while a JinkoSolar facility is in an industrial park that also has a prison, according to Murphy and Elimaat.

JinkoSolar, LONGi, Trina and JA Solar didn't immediately respond to questions about the report.

At the same time, a supply crunch as demand surges has boosted polysilicon prices more than 100% since January to a 9-year high.

The market is "already undersupplied," Johannes Bernreuter, head of Germany's Bernreuter Research, said in an email.

## Suez Canal's claim over once-stuck ship referred by court

**CAIRO** (AP)—An Egyptian appeals court said Sunday it lacks jurisdiction to look into the Suez Canal Authority's demands to uphold financial claims that led to the seizure of the cargo ship that blocked the waterway in March.

The authority and the ship's owner dispute who was at fault when the Ever Given ran aground in the canal linking the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea and how much compensation should be paid.

The appeals chamber of the Ismailia Economic Court referred the case to a lower court to decide on the legality of the seizure of the ship until the settlement of compensation claim between the Suez Canal Authority and Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd., the ship's Japanese owner, according to Hazem Barakat, a lawyer representing the vessel's owner.

The Ever Given was on its way to the Dutch port of Rotterdam on March 23 when it slammed into the bank of a single-lane stretch of the canal about 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) north of the southern entrance,

near the city of Suez.

A massive effort by a flotilla of tugboats, helped by the tides, freed the skyscraper-sized ship six days later, ending the crisis and allowing hundreds of waiting vessels to pass through the canal. The Suez Canal Authority on Sunday revealed for the first time that a salvage boat capsized during the operation, leaving one worker dead.

Since it was freed, the Panama-flagged vessel, which carries cargo between Asia and Europe, has been ordered by authorities to remain in a holding lake mid-canal as its owner and the canal authority try to settle the compensation dispute.

At first, the Suez Canal Authority demanded \$916 million in compensation, which was later lowered to \$550 million, the head of the canal authority, Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie, said in comments on a television program on Sunday.

The money would cover the salvage operation, costs of stalled canal traffic and lost transit fees for the week the

Ever Given blocked the canal. The ship's technical management company, Bernard Schulte Shipmanagement, said in April the Suez Canal Authority had not provided a detailed justification for the compensation claim, calling it "extraordinarily large."

The Suez Canal Authority said it provided documents detailing the compensation amount. It did not provide additional details.

Barakat, the lawyer, said the next court hearing on the case will take place on May 29.

In a separate lawsuit, the appeals chamber rejected Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd.'s appeal against a lower court decision to bound the vessel until solving the financial dispute.

On Saturday, lawyers representing the ship's owners blamed the canal authority for the vessel's grounding, claiming the canal authorities did not provide evidence faulting the ship's crew. They also argued the canal authority should not have allowed the vessel to sail in the waterway amid bad weather.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Eight days after Donald Trump turns 75 next month, New York City voters will cast their last ballots in an election that's sure to have consequences for the former president.

It's not another White House run, but a vote in the Democratic Party primary for Manhattan's next district attorney — the person who would likely end up handling prosecution if an ongoing investigation of Trump's business finds criminal wrongdoing.

The current district attorney, Cyrus Vance Jr., is leaving office at the end of the year, meaning there's a good chance he'll pass the two-year probe to his successor.

The matter of who will take over has taken on new urgency after the announcement this week that the state attorney general's office had joined the DA's Trump criminal investigation — a sweeping look at hush-money payments, property valuations, tax strategies, executive compensation and

other dealings.

In a solidly Democratic borough, the party's June 22 primary is highly likely to decide the winner.

The eight candidates have made clear they're not afraid of taking on the former president, but most have been cautious to stay away from overtly anti-Trump rhetoric.

"While I can't say what I will specifically do without seeing all the facts and the evidence, if Donald Trump or any of the Trumps committed crimes in Manhattan, I will prosecute them," said candidate Eliza Orlins, a public defender who once appeared as a contestant on "Survivor."

"It is more vital now than ever, that the office of the district attorney be understood not to be a political office, that the district attorney not be perceived to be in bed with anyone," said another candidate, Lucy Lang, a former assistant district attorney and former director of John Jay College's

Institute for Innovation in Prosecution.

The robust field includes three former prosecutors in the Manhattan district attorney's office — Lang, Liz Crotty and Diana Florence — and two former federal prosecutors, Tali Farhadian Weinstein and Alvin Bragg.

Three candidates have never been prosecutors, including Orlins, civil rights lawyer Tahanie Aboushi and state Assembly member Dan Quart.

No obvious frontrunner has emerged in the crowded field.

The Trump investigation, which the former president has decried as a "witch hunt," carries major implications for his political future and the fate of his company.

Trump isn't the only topic of discussion in the race, amid reignited concern over street crime and the ongoing debate about criminal justice and the role of prosecutors, renewed in the wake of the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd a year ago.

# Nation

## COVID testing's value shrinks as vaccines beat back virus

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Federal health officials' new, more relaxed recommendations on masks have all but eclipsed another major change in guidance from the government: Fully vaccinated Americans can largely skip getting tested for the coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week that most people who have received the full course of shots and have no COVID-19 symptoms don't need to be screened for the virus, even if exposed to someone infected.

The change represents a new phase in the epidemic after nearly a year in which testing was the primary weapon against the virus. Vaccines are now central to the response and have driven down hospitalizations and deaths dramatically.

Experts say the CDC guidance reflects a new reality in which nearly half of Americans have received at least one shot and close to 40% are fully vaccinated.

"At this point we really should be asking ourselves whether the benefits of testing outweigh the costs—which are lots of disruptions, lots of confusion and very little clinical or public health benefit," said Dr. A. David Paltiel of Yale's School of Public Health, who championed widespread testing at colleges last year.

While vaccinated people can still catch the virus, they face little risk of serious illness from it. And positive test results can lead to what many experts now say are unnecessary worry and interruptions at work, home and school, such



In this Jan. 25, 2021, file photo, a person wearing face mask as a precaution against the coronavirus walks near a sign advertising a rapid COVID-19 testing site in Philadelphia. AP

as quarantines and shutdowns.

Other health specialists say the CDC's abrupt changes on the need for masks and testing have sent the message that COVID-19 is no longer a major threat, even as the U.S. reports daily case counts of nearly 30,000.

"The average Joe Public is interpreting what the CDC is saying as 'This is done. It's over,'" said Dr. Michael Mina of Harvard University, a leading advocate of widespread, rapid testing.

With more than 60% of Americans not fully vaccinated, he thinks screening of those without symptoms still has a role, particularly among front-line workers who have to deal with the public.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said the updated guidelines are based on studies showing the robust effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing disease in various age groups and settings. Even when vaccinated people do contract COVID-19, their infections tend to be milder, shorter and less likely to spread to others.

As a result, the CDC says vaccinated people can generally be excluded from routine workplace screening for COVID-19.

That change could eliminate testing headaches like the one recently reported by the New York Yankees, when one player and several staffers tested positive on a highly sensitive COVID-19 test, despite being vaccinated.

Baseball officials are discussing whether to drop or reduce testing of people who have no symptoms.

But widespread attempts to waive testing for vaccinated people could face the same dilemma seen with the CDC's new guidelines on masks: There's no easy way to determine who has been vaccinated and who hasn't.

Employers can legally require vaccinations for most workers, though few have tested that power, since the vaccines don't yet have full regulatory approval. Even asking employees to disclose their vaccination status is viewed as intrusive by many employment-law specialists.

For now, testing appears to be continuing unchanged in

places that adopted the practice, from offices to meatpacking plants to sports teams.

Pork producer Smithfield

Foods said it continues to conduct a combination of mandatory and optional testing for employees, depending on conditions at work sites. Amazon said it will still offer regular, voluntary testing.

The NBA has indicated it plans to keep its testing system in place for now. The league has been praised for using rigorous testing to create COVID-19-free "bubbles" around players, coaches and staff.

On a national level, the supply of COVID-19 tests now vastly surpasses demand. U.S. officials receive reports of about 1 million tests per day, down from a peak of over 2 million in mid-January, though many rapid tests done at home and workplaces go uncoun ted.

## 2 dead, 12 injured in shooting at New Jersey house party

**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)**—A family house party in South Jersey turned into a crime scene where at least two people were fatally shot and 12 others were wounded, state police said.

Authorities arrived at the

house in Fairfield Township, about an hour outside of Philadelphia, late Saturday night. A resident who runs a local anti-violence organization said he was called out to assist families at the 90s-themed party. John Fuqua, of Life Worth Living, said guests who attended the party were of all ages.

New Jersey State police said a 30-year-old man and 25-year-old woman were fatally shot. There were 12 other people who were injured and transported to local hospitals.

No arrests have been made.

Photos show overturned pop-up party tents, tables and chairs, and debris throughout the home's yard. A long driveway was still filled with cars late Sunday morning.

Two cousins who live in the area of the shooting said they heard music from the party until after midnight, then a series of shots—at least 15 of them over a few minutes.

Joeron Pierce and James Pierce, who live in homes next to each other, said that there was chaos after that. Partygoers ran through their

yards and asked to come into their houses. They said cars ran into one other trying to speed away.

Fairfield Township Mayor Benjamin Byrd Sr., who was at the scene Sunday, said that New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy offered his support and help.

"Nobody knows when someone's going to come out of the woods with a gun," Byrd said. He did not have any details about the shooting.

Murphy called the shooting "horrific."

"This despicable and cowardly act of gun violence only steals our commitment to ensuring New Jersey leads the nation in passing and enforcing strong and commonsense gun safety laws," Murphy said in a statement. "No community should ever experience what occurred last night in Fairfield."

WPVI-TV reported that the reverend of a nearby church heard the gunfire.

"I just started hearing at first what I thought was fireworks, it was really gunshots, and I heard nine in rapid succession," said the Rev. Michael Keene of the Trinity AME Church.

Messages seeking additional information have been left with multiple organizations.

State police scheduled a press conference for Monday morning.

## George Floyd's family holds rally, march in brother's memory

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Members of George Floyd's family, and others who lost loved ones to police encounters, joined activists and citizens in Minneapolis on Sunday for a march that was one of several events planned nationwide to mark the one-year anniversary of Floyd's death.

Hundreds of people gathered for the rally in front of the courthouse in downtown Minneapolis where the Chauvin trial concluded a month ago, many carrying signs with pictures of Floyd, Philando Castile and other Black men killed by police. Amid chants of "no justice, no peace!" and "Say his name," Gov. Tim Walz, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter watched alongside a dozen of Floyd's family members as speakers called for jus-

tice for families of Black men slain by police.

"It has been a long year. It has been a painful year," Floyd's sister Bridgett told the crowd on Sunday. "It has been very frustrating for me and my family for our lives to change in the blink of an eye—I still don't know why."

Tuesday will mark one year since Floyd, who was Black, died after former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin held his knee on Floyd's neck as Floyd pleaded for air. Chauvin, who is white, has since been convicted of murder and manslaughter for Floyd's death, which sparked worldwide protests and calls for change in policing in the U.S.

Speakers at the event included several local activists, Floyd family attorney Ben Crump, the Rev. Al Sharpton, who called on the U.S. Sen-

ate to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The legislation, which would bring about the most significant changes to policing on the federal level, would ban the use of chokeholds and establish a national database of police misconduct.

The nonprofit was launched by Floyd's siblings in September 2020 to help combat racial inequities in Black and brown communities in their brother's honor.

Other events in Minneapolis ahead of the anniversary include a virtual "day of action" that encourages people to organize remotely and two panels with the families and other activists on Monday, followed by a community festival and candlelight vigil on Tuesday.

In New York on Sunday, Floyd's brother, Terrence, attended a Brooklyn gathering in his brother's memory organized by Sharpton and told supporters not to forget his brother or victims of racism violence.

# Asia

## 3RD HIGHEST IN WORLD India virus death toll passes 300K

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India crossed another grim milestone Monday of more than 300,000 people lost to the coronavirus as a devastating surge of infections appeared to be easing in big cities but was swamping the poorer countryside.

The milestone, as recorded by India's health ministry, comes as slowed vaccine deliveries have marred the country's fight against the pandemic, forcing many to miss their shots, and a rare but fatal fungal infection affecting COVID-19 patients has worried doctors.

India's death toll is the third-highest reported in the world, accounting for 8.6% of the nearly 34.7 million coronavirus fatalities globally, though the true numbers are thought to be significantly greater.

The health ministry Monday reported 4,454 new death in the last 24 hours, bringing India's total fatalities to 303,720. It also reported 222,315 new infections, which raised the overall total to nearly 27 million. Both are almost certainly undercounts.

From the remote Himalayan villages in the north, through the vast humid central plains and to the sandy beaches in the south, the pandemic has swamped India's underfunded



An Indian health worker in protective suit takes the swab of a child to test for COVID-19 in Burha Mayong village, Morigaon district of Assam, India, Saturday, May 22, 2021. AP

health care system after spreading fast across the country.

In the capital, New Delhi, residents have died at home with no oxygen as hospitals exhausted limited supplies. In Mumbai, COVID-19 patients have died in crowded hospital corridors. In rural villages, fever and breathlessness took people before they were even tested for coronavirus.

While the megacities have seen signs of improvement in recent days, the virus isn't finished with India by any means. It appears to have already taken a ghastly toll in the country's vast rural areas, where a majority of the people live and where

health care is limited.

In recent weeks, hundreds of bodies have washed up on the banks of the Ganges River in Uttar Pradesh state. Many others have been found buried in shallow graves along its sandy banks. It has prompted concerns that they're the remains of COVID-19 victims.

India's vaccination drive has also slowed recently, and many states say they don't have enough vaccines to administer.

The world's largest vaccine-producing nation has fully vaccinated just over 41.6 million people, or only 3.8% of its nearly 1.4 billion population.

## 21 die in extreme weather in China ultramarathon

**BEIJING** (AP)—Twenty-one people running a mountain ultramarathon have died in northwestern China after hail, freezing rain and gale-force winds hit the high-altitude race, state media reported Sunday.

After an all-night rescue operation in freezing temperatures involving more than 700 personnel, rescuers were able to confirm that 151 people were safe, out of a total of 172 participants. Twenty-one had died, according to the official Xinhua News Agency, which said the runners suffered from physical discomfort and the sudden drop in temperature.

The runners were racing on an extremely narrow mountain path at an altitude reaching 2,000-3,000 meters (6,500-9,800 feet). The 100-kilometer (60-mile) race was held Saturday in the Yellow River Stone Forest tourist site in Baiyin city in Gansu province.

Participants were not rookies. One of the deceased was a well-known runner Liang Jing, who had won a 100-kilometer (62-mile) race in

Ningbo, reported the Paper, a state-backed newspaper based in Shanghai.

A woman who worked for the race organizer, Gansu Shengjing Sports Culture Development Co., said there were no predictions of extreme weather for the day of the race, according to Beijing News, a paper owned by the Beijing city government.

However, Baiyin city's local branch of the National Early Warning Information Center had warned for the past three days of hail and strong winds.

The race also followed a relatively established course, having been held four times, according to an account posted online by a participant in the race who quit and managed to make his way to safety.

But the weather caught them off guard, and on the morning of the race Saturday, he already sensed things were not normal. The runners were not dressed for winter-like conditions, many wearing short-sleeved tops.

"I ran 2 kilometers before the starting gun fired to warm up ... but the troublesome

thing was, after running these 2 kilometers, my body still had not heated up," the competitor said in a first-person account that has been viewed more than 100,000 times on his WeChat account "Wandering about the South."

He later told the Paper that the forecast the day prior to the race did not predict the extreme weather they encountered.

The most difficult section, from kilometer 24 (mile 15) to kilometer 36 (mile 22), climbed 1,000 meters (3,280 feet). There, he said the path was just a mix of stones and sand, and his fingers grew numb from the cold.

When he finally decided to turn back, he already felt dazed. He said he was able to make it to safety and met a rescue crew. He did not respond to a request for comment left on his social media account.

Some runners farther along the course had fallen off the trail into deep mountain crevices, according to a reporter for state broadcaster CCTV. It was not clear how many of them survived.

# World

## Italian cable car plunges to the ground, killing 14



Rescuers work by the wreckage of a cable car after it collapsed near the summit of the Stresa-Mottarone line in the Piedmont region, northern Italy, Sunday, May 23, 2021. AP

**ROME** (AP)—A cable car

taking visitors to a mountaintop view of some of northern Italy's most picturesque lakes plummeted to the ground Sunday and then tumbled down the slope, killing 14 people. The lone survivor, a young child, was hospitalized in serious condition with broken bones, authorities said.

Six of the dead were Israeli citizens, including a family of four who lived in Italy, the Israeli foreign ministry said. It wasn't clear if the other couple was related.

The mayor of Stresa, where the incident occurred, said it appeared that a cable broke, sending the car careening until it hit a pylon and then fell to the ground. At that point, the car overturned "two or three times before hitting some trees," said Mayor Marcella Severino. Some of those who died were thrown from the cabin.

The Italian government announced a commission to investigate the disaster, which is likely to renew questions about the quality and safety of Italy's transport infrastructure.

Images from the site showed the crumpled car in a clearing of a thick patch of pine trees near the summit of the Mottarone peak overlooking Lake Maggiore. The car was believed to have fallen around 15 meters (50 feet), according to Italian media.

"It was a terrible, terrible scene," Severino told Italy's

SkyTG24.

The plunge on the Stresa-Mottarone line happened about 100 meters (yards) before the final pylon, said Walter Milan, spokesman for Italy's Alpine rescue service.

By Sunday evening, the death toll had risen to 14 dead after one of two children taken to Turin's Regina Margherita children's hospital died. The child died after

several attempts to restart his heart failed and "there was nothing more we could do," said hospital spokesman Pier Paolo Berra. The other young child, who arrived at the hospital conscious, remained in serious condition, authorities said.

Milan noted that the cable line had been renovated in 2016 and had only recently reopened after coronavirus lockdowns in Italy curtailed travel and forced the suspension of many leisure activities. Milan suggested many families may have flocked to the mountain on a sunny Sunday after months of restrictions.

The line is popular with tourists and locals alike to scale Mottarone, which reaches a height of 1,491 meters (4,900 feet) and overlooks several picturesque lakes and the surrounding Alps of Italy's Piedmont region.

The mountain hosts a small amusement park, Alpyland, that has a children's rollercoaster, and the area also has mountain bike paths

and hiking trails.

Premier Mario Draghi offered his condolences to the families of the victims "with a particular thought about the seriously injured children and their families."

Sunday's tragedy appeared to be Italy's worst cable car disaster since 1998 when a low-flying U.S. military jet cut through the cable of a ski lift in Cavalese, in the Dolomites, killing 20 people.

Italy's transport minister, Enrico Giovannini, announced a commission to look into the tragedy and said he had already requested data on the maintenance work and inspections done on the line in the past. He planned to visit the site Monday.

While the cause hasn't been determined, the disaster was likely to raise questions about Italy's transport infrastructure. In 2018, the Morandi bridge in Genoa collapsed after years of neglect, killing 43 people.

In 2009, a freight train carrying gas derailed at the Viareggio station, near Lucca, and exploded, killing 32 people. Poorly maintained axles of the train were blamed.

President Sergio Mattarella, in offering his condolences, called for the "rigorous respect of all security norms" in transportation.

Associated Press writer Joseph Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

# Overdrive

## AUTO REVIEW: With V-8 power, Wrangler Rubicon 392 is King of the Jeeps

By HENRY PAYNE  
THE DETROIT NEWS

Well, you just knew the mad scientists at Stellantis had this up their sleeve. First came the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat. Then the Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat family sedan. Followed by the Jeep Grand Cherokee Trackhawk family SUV.

Now doff your cap to the earth-shaking 470-horsepower Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 392 off-road vehicle stuffed with the same 392-cubic-inch V-8 found in the Dodge Challenger Scat Pack, for goodness sake. The forest will never be the same.

I took the juiced Wrangler to Holly Oaks ORV Park in Holly, Mich., and made the trees shake. The ground quake. The rocks crumble. After I hurtled around the dirt track at obtuse angles, Joey Logano approached me and asked if he could enter the Wrangler in next year's NASCAR Bristol dirt race.

Jeep's compact SUV is insane. My only question is: was the alphanumeric 392 badge the best marketing could come up with?

How about Beast? Hulk? Was Hellboy taken?

After all, Jeep executives have made clear they don't have room to fit the supercharged 700-plus horsepower Hellcat engine in the Wrangler without compromising crumple safety zones—so this is the highest-flying V-8-powered Wrangler we're going to get. Heck, at \$74,995 it actually costs more than a Challenger Hellcat. If an alphanumeric badge it must be, how about 666?

The Wrangler Rubicon 392 is a treat from the moment you push the Start button on the dash.



(STELLANTIS)  
The 2021 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 392

**BRAAAP!** The 6.4-liter V-8 roars to life like someone stuck the Kraken with a hot poker (was Kraken taken?). Unlike its sedan and SUV peers, the Wrangler is wonderfully uninsulated due to its removable doors and roof, so the sounds wash over you like a wave.

Anyone who thinks we'll only be driving electric cars in the future hasn't heard this pure sound. My Jeep friend Joe instantly fell in love. When his kids turn 16, they'll get his V-6-powered Rubicon. Dad's getting the 392.

Hustling up I-75 to Holly Oaks, it's impossible to resist jumping on the throttle over 3,000 RPM. The soft suspension throws the Wrangler's head back. The huge 33-inch tires churn. Eight cylinders sound like jackhammers in the asphalt.

Naturally, Jeep dressed the 392 in full Rubicon off-road battle dress so that you could enjoy all the amenities the King of Off-road has to offer.

The Jeep faithful will strip off the doors and peel back the roof to get even closer to the V-8 roar. If we had done that on this sun-soaked Saturday morning—a day after heavy rains in southeast Michigan—we would have been caked with mud from head to toe. We left the doors on.

A red Wrangler Rubicon is a beautiful canvas to paint with mud. Now that's landscape art.

When not destroying sports cars out of stoplights, the 392 loses none of its abilities off-road. Indeed, the 392 is raised another inch to encourage you to take it where the asphalt ends.

That extra inch is functional—a testament to the extensive re-engineering Jeep's surgeons did to make this Frankenjeep monster a reality. The engine bay has been extensively reworked to fit the taller, longer, hungrier V-8. The hood scoop is real, and more airways are available should it get blocked or overwhelmed by a wave of muck while treading

up to 32 inches of water.

Years ago, a mod shop stuffed a Porsche 968 motor into my Porsche 944 (more power! Uh uh uh!) engine bay, requiring extensive plumbing. And that was just swapping a 2.5-liter 4-banger for a 3.0-liter four. Ask an aftermarket shop to upgrade your Jeep Rubicon to a V-8 and you're likely looking at a bill north of \$40,000. Jeep does it for \$24,000 over the standard Rubicon.

The Frankenstein transformation doesn't stop at the engine bay. In addition to the aforementioned lift, the ladder frame gets stiffening, and the suspension gains Fox performance shocks and muscular Dana axles off the Gladiator pickup.

Bottom line: this is the most capable Jeep Wrangler ever, with 10.3 inches of ground clearance and an absurd 4.5-second 0-60 dash. Even the Rubicon's legendary approach/breakover/departure angles increase up 44.5/22.6/37.5 de-

grees. Boowah-haw-haw!

Scaling the South Face of the park's Sandbox area is a formidable task as you have to accelerate up a sandy hill that steepens to 31 degrees (think Daytona's high banking) at the top.

With 470 pound-feet of torque, my 392 fearlessly attacked the obstacle, flinging sand plumes from its knobby tires. At the top of the ridge Wrangler surveyed its Jeep kingdom below like Simba on Pride Rock. Ah, when the Ford Bronco arrives this summer, the fur will fly at Holly Oaks.

Soft ground after overnight rains demands extra safety vigilance over Holly Oaks' steep, 200-foot drops. I manhandled the transfer case shifter into 4-low, locked front and rear axles, disconnected the swaybar and grunted across muddy Darlene's Ridge—the huge 33-inch tires slipping and sliding but clawing for grip.

Grip was an issue on the steep rocks of the park's signature Mashed Potato hill on Mt. Magna for some V-6-powered Rubicons. For the V-8, it was a piece of cake, the suspension lift adding extra clearance for the rugged frame.

On Holly Oaks' challenging five-turn Glen short course, I turned off traction control to allow the rear end to really hang loose. I've overcooked the course's moguls before—separating a Ford Ranger Tremor's tire from its rim—but the Wrangler 392 comes standard with bead locks to protect against separation anxiety.

As I'm 6' 5", my biggest concern was hitting my noggin on the roll bar as we flew over hillocks.

For its ultimate workhorse, Jeep has spared nothing. The 392 gets signature bronze tow hooks, leather 392 seat badging, a Sky One Touch roof, front-facing crawl camera, paddle shifters—even a quiet mode button on the dash should you want to hear the person in the backseat over the wail of the V-8.

But if it's quiet you're looking for on your off-road wanderings, get the plug-in hybrid 4xe that I recently tested in Texas. You can stealthily sneak around Holly Oaks and listen to every twig snap under your 33s.

The 392, on the other hand, is all about teeth-baring, chest-thumping dominance.

I know, let's call it Kong.

### K NUTS & BOLTS

#### 2021 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 392

- Vehicle type: Front engine, four-wheel-drive, five-passenger compact SUV
- Price: \$74,995, including \$1,495 destination fee (\$78,545 as tested)
- Powerplant: 6.4-liter V-8
- Power: 470 horsepower, 470 pound-feet torque
- Transmission: 8-speed automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 4.5 seconds (mfr.); towing capacity, 3,500 pounds
- Weight: 5,100 pounds
- Fuel economy: EPA est. mpg 13 city/17 highway/14 combined
- Report card
- Highs: Off-road cred; a Hemi V-8 in a Wrangler, need I say more?
- Lows: Drinks gas; gotta shout to be heard in the cabin
- Overall: 4 stars

## Motor Mouth: Chill out about batteries and heat

**Q: I live in Las Vegas and must replace my 12-volt battery every three years because of the heat. Will I have to worry about this with the electric cars? Batteries don't come cheap and the new ones are probably more expensive than the current ones.**

— R.P., Las Vegas

**A:** Your concern is shared by the carmakers. But replacing the battery pack is less a concern than replacing a car that catches fire. Air cooling has been the traditional method, but liquid cooling is becoming the current choice. Coming along slowly is heat pump cooling. A heat pump has an additional advantage of routing some of the heat into the cabin in colder weather. Currently, cabin heat comes

from an electric heater, which consumes battery power.

**Q: It seems that whenever I have a long drive, no matter the direction or the time of day, I need a sun visor that works, not one that covers the top 3 inches or so of the windshield or side window. My cars have the little extension or the slide on the rod feature. None of them deal with the blinding sun that is low on the horizon. Have you heard or read of any attempts at improving the safety?**

— K.K., Urbana, Illinois

**A:** I feel your pain. The rising and setting sun is blinding during rush hours, especially in the spring and fall. And it especially affects commuters.

They can reasonably expect traffic jams unless it's cloudy. With all the technology and brain power in the auto industry, there should be a solution, but I have not yet seen one. (Maybe it is because I am still sun blinded.) Sometimes I wear a baseball cap and tilt my head down to block the glare.

**Q: I have owned two Buick Rendevous and two Buick Enclaves. Wanting to downsize somewhat, eight months ago I bought a 2020 Encore. Within two weeks I noticed fumes from trucks and traffic coming into the car when I was on the highway. Now the fumes are worse even driving around town. There is no recirculate button. I went to my dealer and that was a total waste of time. They took**

**it on the road with the ionizer blowing full blast and said I didn't have a problem. I talked to a GM plant manager; he said no fumes should be coming in when I am running the ionizer. Hope you can up with a solution.**

— J.M., Chicago

**A:** First of all, what do plant managers know about ionizers? Their area of expertise is philodendrons and palms and stuff. Ionizers are great for most stuff, but they can't eliminate gaseous odors. Ionizers work by getting particles such as pollen to clump together making them large enough to be caught by the cabin air filter. What you smell may also be due to outgassing of the vinyl components inside the car.

By BOB WEBER  
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



— B.C., Dennis, Massachusetts

**Q: My last two vehicles had daytime driving lights, which gave me a small sense of security that other vehicles could see me OK during the day. The car I'm looking at now for possible purchase doesn't have this option. Can these be installed as an option in a car if a buyer wants them?**

**A:** You can install aftermarket daytime driving lights and there are a gazillion brands out there. I suggest you buy a kit from a reputable company like Phillips or Hella. All the DRLs with which I am familiar are LEDs.

# Life & Style

## Drake, Pink, The Weeknd win big at Billboard Music Awards

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It was a family affair at the Billboard Music Awards: Pink twirled in the air in a powerful performance with her daughter, and Drake was named artist of the decade, accepting the honor alongside his 3-year-old son.

Drake, who extended his record as the most decorated winner in the history of the awards show to 29 wins Sunday, was surrounded by family and friends who presented him with the Artist of the Decade Award. He walked onstage outside the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles with his son Adonis holding his hand.

He was also named top streaming songs artist Sunday.

Pink received the Icon Award and was joined on-

"I wanna dedicate this award to my friends, to my longtime collaborators ... to my beautiful family, and to you," he said, looking to Adonis and picking him up to kiss him.

Drake placed his first song on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 2009, and since has logged the most songs ever on the chart, with 232 entries. He's also logged a record 45 Top 10 hits on the Hot 100 and a record 22 No. 1s on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart.

He was also named top streaming songs artist Sunday.

Pink received the Icon Award and was joined on-



Drake carries his son Adonis Graham as he accepts the artist of the decade award at the Billboard Music Awards on Sunday, May 23, 2021, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. AP

### WINNERS' LIST

A list of winners in the top categories at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards, held Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

- Top artist: The Weeknd
- Top Hot 100 song: The Weeknd, "Blinding Lights"
- Top Billboard 200 album: Pop Smoke, "Shoot for the Stars, Aim for the Moon."
- Top female artist: Taylor Swift
- Top male artist: The Weeknd
- Top new artist: Pop Smoke
- Top collaboration: Gabby Barrett featuring Charlie Puth, "I Hope"
- Top duo/group: BTS
- Top R&B artist: The Weeknd
- Top rap artist: Pop Smoke
- Top country artist: Morgan Wallen
- Top rock artist: Machine Gun Kelly
- Top Latin artist: Bad Bunny
- Top dance/electronic artist: Lady Gaga
- Top Christian artist: Elevation Worship
- Top gospel artist: Kanye West
- Top social artist: BTS
- Top streaming songs artist: Drake
- Top song sales artist: BTS
- Top radio songs artist: The Weeknd
- Top Billboard 200 artist: Taylor Swift
- Top Hot 100 artist: The Weeknd
- Artist of the Decade Award: Drake
- Icon Award: Pink
- Change Maker Award: Trae Tha Truth

stage by her 9-year-old daughter—showing off their powerful gymnastic skills as they spun in the air in a jaw-dropping performance. Known for her signature aerial and acrobatic moves, Pink was matched by Willow Sage Hart as "Cover Me In Sunshine" played in the background, Pink's song featuring vocals from her daughter.

"Willow, you nailed it," Pink said after the performance. "I love what I do and I love the people that I get to do it with, and we're pretty good at what we do, but it wouldn't matter if no one came to see us and play with us. So all you guys out there ... thank you for coming out!"

Pink's performance was one of several pre-taped moments at the awards show, which aired on NBC and was hosted by Nick Jonas. Live performances were held outdoors, in front of feverish audience members wearing masks.

The Weeknd was on hand to accept the most wins of the

night—10. He walked into the show with 16 nominations, winning honors like top artist, top male artist, top Hot 100 song for "Blinding Lights" and top R&B album for "After Hours."

"I wanna take this opportunity to thank you, my parents," he said. "I am the man I am today because of you. And thank you to my fans, of course. I do not take this for granted."

The late rapper Pop Smoke was also a big winner: He posthumously earned five honors, including top new artist and top rap artist, while his debut—"Shoot for the Stars, Aim for the Moon"—won top rap album and top Billboard 200 album, which his mother accepted onstage.

"Thank you to the fans for honoring the life and spirit of my son, so much that he continues to manifest as if he was still here in flesh," Audrey Jackson said.

Another late rapper was also honored during the show. Before presenting top rap

song to DaBaby, Swizz Beatz dedicated a moment to those who have recently died in hip-hop, including his close friend and collaborator DMX. And Houston rapper and activist Trae Tha Truth, who earned the Change Maker Award, ended his speech with a powerful sentence: "We still gon' need justice for Breonna Taylor."

Other winners Sunday included Bad Bunny and BTS, who both won four awards and also performed. Breakthrough country singer Gabby Barrett won three awards, including top female country artist and top country song for the hit "I Hope." The song's remix featuring Charlie Puth accepted onstage.

"Oh my gosh. Thank y'all so much. This means so much to me," Barrett said as she broke into tears. "I've been performing for 10 years really hard. ... We've worked so hard to get here."

Another country star also won big Sunday though he wasn't allowed to participate

in the show.

Morgan Wallen, who was caught on camera using a racial slur earlier this year, won three honors, including top country artist and top country album for "Dangerous: The Double Album," which has had major success on the pop and country music charts despite his fallen moment.

Wallen was nominated for six awards, and Billboard Awards producer Dick Clark Productions said it couldn't prevent Wallen from earning nominations, or winning, because finalists are based on album and digital sales, streaming, radio airplay and social engagement. The producers did ban Wallen from performing or attending the show.

The Billboard Awards kicked off with a collaborative performance by DJ Khaled, H.E.R. and Migos, who brought the concert vibe back to life a year after live shows were in the dark because of the pandemic. Doja Cat and SZA—accompanied by futuristically dressed background dancers—sang their big hit "Kiss Me More" inside the venue, where the seats were empty. Alicia Keys, celebrating the 20th anniversary of her groundbreaking debut "Songs in A Minor," sang songs from the album including the hit "Fallen." The performance was introduced by former first lady Michelle Obama.

## Musician in multiple bands complicates scheduling needs

**D**EAR ABBY: I am in a rock band with some friends. All of us are in our 50s and 60s. We have been playing together for the last three years. Last year, our bass player joined another band (while staying in ours) because another friend was in it, but they broke up because of COVID. Now that music venues are opening up again, he has joined yet another group.

I'm a loyal guy, and it bothers me that he doesn't seem as loyal to our band. He says he can easily do both, but for me, it causes booking issues because the other band will be blocking out dates that we might be able to book. I see no other conflicts. He even asked if I was interested in joining the other band, too, because he figured that if he can't be in two places at once, it might as well be both of us. Should we cut our losses and replace him? Loyalty is really important to us.

ROCKING ON IN TEXAS

**DEAR ROCKING ON:** Because you feel that loyalty is paramount and your friend may have scheduling conflicts because of his participation with the other band(s), yes, he should be replaced with a musician you can rely on.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend who feels a need to correct the behavior of others by writing letters. There are not too

many businesses around town that haven't received one of her letters and, no doubt, others in her circle of friends have, too.

After a misunderstanding for which I apologized, I received one of them. Because she lacks understanding or the ability to forgive, a vitriolic diatribe came my way. In her letter, she related past "unfortunate (in her opinion) ill behaviors on my part for which I should be ashamed." Then she ended a friendship we had for many years without trying to mend the relationship. This is very hurtful for me, and I'm sure for others. How does one respond, if at all, to something like this?

SUFFERING IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR SUFFERING:** One does not respond. One copes by recognizing that the only person this unhappy woman is punishing is herself, as her circle of friends diminishes and businesses around town no longer welcome her.

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife recently asked me if she could take off her wedding ring in favor of wearing her mother's, which is much larger than the one I gave her. I regard it as a lack of respect for our marriage, which has been under a lot of stress for a long time. (No affairs.) I also view it as symbolic of how much she has financially sacrificed being married to me. What

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



do you think?

WONDERING IN THE EAST

**DEAR WONDERING:** I "think" you should tell your wife it would hurt you deeply if she follows through, and why. I also think the time has come for the two of you to talk about what is "stressing" your marriage with a licensed marriage and family therapist.

*Abby* shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two books: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# 8th-seeded Memphis beats No. 1-seeded Jazz in series opener



**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies have not completely consigned their grit-and-grind days to the past.

The eighth-seeded Grizzlies beat top-seeded Utah 112-109 on Sunday night in the opening game of their first-round playoff series by relying on hard-nosed physical defense to keep the Jazz off balance on offense much of the game.

Game 2 of the series is on Wednesday.

Utah never found a rhythm from the perimeter, shooting just 12 of 47 from long distance. Defensively, the Jazz couldn't stop Dillon Brooks for long stretches.

Brooks had 31 points and seven rebounds to lead the Grizzlies. He set a single-game franchise scoring record for a Memphis player making a playoff debut, surpassing the 24 points scored by Marc Gasol against San Antonio on April 17, 2011.

"He brings a lot of energy to the floor," guard Ja Morant said. "As soon as we get here in the locker room, he's already active and loud and carries it onto the floor for us during the game. We just continue to play off of him. I think everybody on this team gets a lot of energy from him, just seeing how active he is on the floor."

Morant added 26 points. Jonas Valanciunas chipped in 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Kyle Anderson added 14 points.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 20 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Jazz. Mike Conley had 22 points, 11 assists, and six rebounds. Rudy Gobert added 15 rebounds and 11 points, and Derrick Favors finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Bogdanovic hit five free throws in the final minute to help Utah cut Memphis' lead to 110-109 with 6.4 seconds left. Brooks made a layup at the other end, and Bogdanovic missed a 3-point try with 1.9 seconds left that would have forced overtime.

Ultimately, the Jazz never fully recovered from playing long stretches of sluggish offense and passive defense.

"We got a few moments when we were distracted, disconnected," Gobert said. "Every time they score, they are talking, and we know that's the way they like to play, so we can't let that affect us."

Utah cut a double-digit deficit to 60-59 following a layup by Bogdanovic. Then, Brooks took over. He scored 14 points on 7-of-10 shooting in the third quarter. Brooks capped off his scoring flurry with back-to-back baskets

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that extended the Grizzlies' lead to 78-68.

Memphis led by as many as 17 points in the fourth, going up 94-77 on a jumper from Tyus Jones, before the Jazz rallied late.

"He's our spirit leader," Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said concerning Brooks' performance. "His intensity just permeates throughout the entire team."

Utah experienced a dry spell on offense through much of the first quarter. The Jazz made a single basket over a seven-minute stretch while committing six turnovers. The Jazz committed eight total turnovers in the quarter.

"Whether it was the offensive rebounds or the turnovers, they just had a lot more possessions than we did and that's hard to overcome," Utah coach Quin Snyder said. "I was happy with the fact that we fought and got back in the game there at the end. But I think we all know we need to play better. And we need to execute better."

Memphis went ahead 17-14 on a three-point play by Dillon Brooks, but could not gain further ground against the Jazz defense.

The Grizzlies missed 14 straight shots over a seven-minute stretch spanning the first and second quarters. It opened the door for Utah's 15-0 run, highlighted by back-to-back baskets by Gobert for a 29-17 lead.

Memphis answered with a 31-7 run, starting late in the second quarter, and went ahead 53-43 early in the third. Brooks and Morant combined for six baskets and 17 points to fuel the spurt.

"I don't think they took us lightly," Anderson said. "They threw some punches. We threw some punches. We went out and won the game."

## 76ers 125, Wizards 118

In Philadelphia, Tobias Harris picked a pair of Philadelphia's deep reserves to knock him around and toughen his game on the low post. The trio talked smack, and their post-practice workout sessions resembled a kind of bully ball for most of the last three months, all so Harris was better equipped for the postseason grind.

"I know the people who watch, the people who see, my teammates, they respect that," Harris said.

And the payoff?

"You have a night like this," Harris said.

Harris showed why top-seeded Philadelphia might have its own Big 3 worthy of winning a championship. He scored 37 points, carrying Philadelphia's offense when it sagged early, and the 76ers survived the sub-.500 Washington Wizards in a 125-118 Game 1 victory on Sunday.

"We see him early on dominating the game and you want to keep giving him the ball because he's feeling it," guard Ben Simmons said.

Harris scored 28 points in the first half, making a case that Philly has — with All-Stars Joel Embiid and Simmons — three big stars that could rival the superstar trio of Kevin Durant-James Harden-Kyrie Irving in Brooklyn.

Embiid finished with 30 points. Game 2 is Wednesday in Philadelphia.

The Sixers needed Harris' outburst to offset an upset-minded Wizards team that was within five points with 45 seconds left. Bradley Beal scored 33 points and Russell Westbrook had 16 — but neither sensational scorer took over in long enough stretches needed for an upset.

Westbrook even stepped out of bounds with 37 seconds

left, cutting off a potential rally. He declined to say if the referees made the correct call.

"It doesn't matter now. It don't matter," Westbrook said.

## Suns 99, Lakers 90

In Phoenix, All-Star guard Chris Paul was grimacing in pain early in the fourth quarter, playing essentially with one shoulder. Cameron Payne had just been ejected. Players had to be separated and emotions were heated.

Phoenix coach Monty Williams had warned his young Suns there would be moments like this in the NBA playoffs, especially against the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

It's safe to say they passed the first test.

Devin Booker scored 34 points, Deandre Ayton had 21 points and 16 rebounds and the Suns won their first playoff game in 11 years, beating the Lakers 99-90 on Sunday. For Booker, his long awaited appearance in the postseason lived up to the hype.

"The intensity's different, the physicality is different," Booker said. "And it's only one game."

It was the first playoff appearance for several Suns players, including Booker, Ayton and Mikal Bridges, but they didn't look like postseason rookies against LeBron James and the Lakers. They helped Phoenix offset a tough game for Paul, who didn't look healthy after a right shoulder injury in the second quarter.

The Suns led 86-70 early in the fourth, but the Lakers quickly cut it to 86-77 with 9:02 left.

That's about the time things got a little rowdy. L.A.'s Alex Caruso and Payne got into an altercation near the sideline after Payne knocked Caruso to the ground. L.A.'s Mon-

trez Harrell jumped into the fray and both teams had to be separated. Caruso and Harrell were each given a technical foul, and Payne was given two technicals and ejected.

"It's something we've been talking about as a team and a staff," Williams said. "There's going to be a moment in the game where you're going to have to regulate your emotions."

Added Bridges: "Times get tough, we don't separate. We're going to fight through it together."

The Suns did. Booker kept making shots and Ayton was a force on the glass, finishing with eight offense rebounds and shooting 10 of 11 from the field. The Lakers never got within striking distance in the final minutes.

"(Booker) is a scoring machine, puts a lot of pressure on our defense to cover him in a lot of ways," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "When we double team him, he's got Ayton in there. We didn't do a good enough job but if we hold this team to 99 points in Game 2, I feel good about our chances."

James finished with 18 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds. Anthony Davis shot just 5 of 16 from the field and had 13 points. The Lakers shot 7 of 26 (27%) from 3-point range.

## Hawks 107, Knicks 105

In New York, a crowd that waited eight years to see another Knicks playoff game needed just minutes to make Trae Young its target.

Young heard the fans' hate. Then he silenced them.

"I've always looked at it that I'm doing something right if I'm affecting them with my play that much that they hate me that much," he said. "I'm obviously doing something right and just got to let my play do the talking."

Young then brought the ball up and was supposed to get a screen from John Collins. But Collins' sneaker fell off so Young waved him off and handled things himself.

Memphis Grizzlies forward Dillon Brooks (24) lays the ball up as Utah Jazz forward Royce O'Neale (23) looks on during the first half of Game 1 of their NBA basketball first-round playoff series Sunday, May 23, 2021, in Salt Lake City. AP

Young made a runner in the lane with 0.9 seconds left to give the Atlanta Hawks a 107-105 victory over New York on Sunday night in a thrilling postseason return for both teams.

Young finished with 32 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds. He frustrated the Knicks with his ability to draw fouls and made all nine free throws when he did.

He looked like Reggie Miller in the 1990s, feeding off a New York crowd — featuring a rowdy Spike Lee, just like those days — that cursed his name repeatedly when he made a shot or drew a foul.

"He's small but he's a tough kid and he's not afraid," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said.

Many in the loud crowd of more than 15,000 jeered Young throughout the night but he got the final word when he drove right through the Knicks' defense and floated in his shot from right of the basket, then put his fingers to his lips to tell the crowd to quiet down.

"This is a coming-out party for him and he's ready to do it," teammate Lou Williams said.

Bogdan Bogdanovic added 18 points for the Hawks in their first postseason game since 2017.

Alec Burks scored 27 points for the Knicks, who are back in the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Derrick Rose scored 17 points, but Julius Randle shot just 6 for 23 while finishing with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

The Knicks host Game 2 on Wednesday night, when Randle will try to bounce back. He had two 40-point games against Atlanta this season.

"Got a game, got to feel it out a little bit and I'll adjust," the All-Star said.

Neither team led by more than six points in a fourth quarter during which the teams took turns regaining and then losing momentum. Young made a pair of free throws for a 105-103 lead with 28 seconds left after the Knicks unsuccessfully challenged the call, and Rose tied it with a basket with 9.8 seconds to go.

Young then brought the ball up and was supposed to get a screen from John Collins. But Collins' sneaker fell off so Young waved him off and handled things himself.

# Lux stars as Dodgers beat Giants for 8th straight win



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gavin Lux hit a grand slam, Julio Urías drove in three runs to help back his gem on the mound, and the Los Angeles Dodgers pounded the San Francisco Giants 11-5 on Sunday for their eighth straight win.

Urías (7-1) struck out 10 over six stellar innings to beat San Francisco for the first time in 10 career starts and 16 appearances after three no-decisions in 2020. He hit a two-run double in the second and an RBI single in the Dodgers' seven-run third that chased Anthony DeSclafani (4-2) after 54 pitches.

Lux hit his second career slam after his first came Tuesday against Arizona. Max Muncy hit a full-count homer in the fourth, going deep for a second straight day.

Austin Slater hit a two-run homer for San Francisco, which lost its third straight game following a five-game winning streak.

## Padres 9, Mariners 2

In San Diego, Fernando Tatis Jr. homered twice, including a 447-foot grand slam, and San Diego beat Seattle to sweep a nine-game homestand.

The 22-year-old Tatis sent Petco Park into a frenzy on a sunny afternoon when he drove a 1-0 pitch from Robert Dugger to the base of the batter's eye in straightaway center field with one out in the seventh. It was his 13th homer this season and his second career grand slam.

Tatis also hit a 441-foot home run into Petco Park's second deck leading off the second and singled in the go-ahead run during a three-run rally in the sixth.

Yu Darvish (5-1) pitched seven strong innings to win his second straight start. Anthony Misiewicz (2-3) got the loss.

## Rays 6, Blue Jays 4

In Dunedin, Fla., Austin Meadows, Manuel Margot and Mike Brosseau drew consecutive bases-loaded walks with two outs in the ninth inning, and Tampa Bay rallied for its 10th straight win.

The Rays trailed 4-2 going into the ninth, but took advantage of five walks by relievers Tyler Chatwood (0-1) and Travis Bergen to send Toronto to its fifth straight loss.

After a leadoff walk and a single, Brett Phillips hit an RBI single with one out that made it 4-3. Chatwood retired Randy Arozarena before walking Yandy Díaz to load the bases.

Bergen entered and Meadows worked a nine-pitch walk after fouling off three 3-2 pitches, tying the score.



AP  
Los Angeles Dodgers' Gavin Lux, left, celebrates with manager Dave Roberts after the Dodgers defeated the San Francisco Giants in a baseball game in San Francisco, Sunday, May 23, 2021.

two-run homer. The Braves hit 15 homers, adding to their major league lead, while winning three of four games against the Pirates.

Braves left-hander Max Fried (2-2) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings. It was his fourth consecutive start allowing only one run.

Pittsburgh right-hander JT Brubaker (3-4) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

## Marlins 5, Mets 1

In Miami, rookie Cody Poteet pitched seven scoreless innings, retiring his last 14 batters, and collected his first major league hit and RBI during Miami's five-run second inning.

Miami took the rubber game of the three-game series to close to within two games of the NL East-leading Mets (21-19), who have been riddled by injuries and finished 3-6 on a three-city Southern swing.

Poteet (2-0) allowed three hits and walked none. Jesús Aguilar and Jazz Chisholm each had a run-scoring single for the Marlins.

New York's Jordan Yamamoto (1-1) lasted four innings in his first start of the year and his first against his former team. He left the game with right shoulder soreness.

## Nationals 6, Orioles 5

In Washington, Kyle Schwarber homered in the first inning, and Washington completed a three-game sweep.

Trea Turner had two hits for the Nationals, and his fourth-inning sacrifice fly broke a 4-all tie. Alex Avila doubled twice and scored the go-ahead run.

Patrick Corbin (3-3) labored through 5 2/3 innings for the win, allowing four runs and 11 hits. Brad Hand worked the ninth for his seventh save in nine chances.

Baltimore has dropped six straight and 13 of 15. Matt Harvey (3-5) lost his fourth consecutive start.

## Twins 8, Indians 5, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Kyle Garlick hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning off James Karinchak, lifting Minnesota to the victory.

Craig Kimrel (1-2) recorded the final four outs to improve Chicago's record to 4-4 in extra inning contests.

Nolan Arenado hit a sacrifice fly to lead off the bottom of the 10th on a night St. Louis went 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

in the ninth when Jordan Luplow, replacing injured Franchi Reyes in the cleanup spot, brought home the tying run with a squeeze bunt.

The Twins responded quickly against Karinchak (2-1). Luis Arraez was the automatic runner at second base, and Josh Donaldson walked. Garlick homered to center field on a 3-2 pitch.

Hanser Robles (1-1) got the win. Tyler Duffey pitched the 10th for his first save.

## Royals 3, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to lift the Royals to the victory.

Kansas City was held to three hits until the ninth, when Whit Merrifield led off with an infield single before Santana connected against Michael Fulmer (3-3).

Kyle Zimmer (3-0) struck out three in two hitless innings for the win.

Royals manager Mike Mathey was ejected for the second time this season for arguing in the sixth.

## Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Denver, Trevor Story hit a leadoff homer in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving Colorado the win.

Story connected on a 1-1 curveball from Stefan Crichton (0-3), completing a sweep of the Diamondbacks. It was his fifth homer of the season, and he celebrated by tossing his helmet in the air as he rounded the bases.

Josh Fuentes had two doubles and Daniel Bard (2-3) pitched the ninth to get the win.

Pavin Smith homered for Arizona, which has lost eight in a row and 13 straight on the road.

Diamondbacks right-hander Taylor Widener departed in the second inning with right groin discomfort after allowing an unearned run on Story's RBI single.

## Cubs 2, Cardinals 1, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Jérôme Béz hit a two-run homer in the 10th to break a scoreless tie and propel Chicago past St. Louis.

Béz hit the second pitch he saw from Alex Reyes (2-1) 417 feet onto the center field batter's eye for his 11th home run of the season. It was just the second earned run allowed by Reyes in 25 innings this season.

Craig Kimrel (1-2) recorded the final four outs to improve Chicago's record to 4-4 in extra inning contests.

Nolan Arenado hit a sacrifice fly to lead off the bottom of the 10th on a night St. Louis went 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

Margot walked on five pitches to put Tampa Bay ahead and Brosseau walked on four pitches.

Josh Fleming (4-3) got the win, and recently acquired J.P. Feyereisen worked the ninth for his first save.

## Yankees 5, White Sox 4

In New York, Aaron Judge walked against Liam Hendriks with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, and the Yankees overcame Aroldis Chapman's first blown save on the way to their sixth straight win.

Jameson Taillon completed a historic scoreless turn through the New York rotation. But pinch-hitter Andrew Vaughn sprinted around the bases after tying it at 4 with his one-out homer in the ninth.

It was the first blown save by Chapman (4-0) in 12 chances this year.

Clint Frazier singled off Aaron Bummer (0-3) leading off the bottom half, and then stole second as Brett Gardner struck out. DJ LeMahieu was intentionally walked and Tyler Wade reached with an infield hit on a slow roller to second.

Hendriks relieved to face Judge, who missed the first pitch, then took four balls for the first walk-off RBI of any kind in his big league career.

New York moved a season-high nine games over .500 at 28-19. The Yankees are 23-9 since their 5-10 start.

AL Central-leading Chicago (26-19) has lost three straight for the first time this year.

## Brewers 9, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Christian Yelich hit his first homer of the season and Kolten Wong had three hits, powering Milwau-

kee to the win. Yelich, who has been hampered by back trouble for much of the season, hit a solo drive in the ninth against Brad Brach. The 2018 NL MVP finished with two hits and two RBIs.

Wong, who returned to the lineup after he was hit on the right elbow by a pitch in the seventh inning on Friday, grounded to second in the eighth, falling a home run shy of the Brewers' first cycle since Yelich in 2018, also against the Reds.

Jesse Winker hit a solo homer in the third for Cincinnati, and Nick Castellanos connected for a two-run shot in the ninth. Luis Castillo (1-7) allowed five runs in five innings.

Winker became the first Reds batter with five homers in a three-game series since Willie Greene from Sept. 24-26, 1996, against the Cubs. Winker went deep three times on Friday, but the Brewers took the last two in the weekend set.

Brad Boxberger (1-1) got the win.

## Rangers 3, Astros 2, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Adolis García's infield single scored automatic runner Nick Solak in the 10th inning, giving the Rangers a victory over the Astros and a sweep of their Texas rivals.

It was the second game-ending hit in the 10th in the three-game series for García after a three-run homer in the opener. He also went deep twice during Saturday's 8-4 victory.

The series was a strong response by the Rangers to a 1-9 stretch that included a four-game sweep by the Astros last weekend in Houston.

Jose Altuve had two hits for the Astros, extending the longest hitting streak in the majors this season to 17 games.

John King (5-3) got the win, and Ryan Pressly (2-1) was charged with the loss.

## Phillies 6, Red Sox 2

In Philadelphia, Zack Wheeler struck out a career high-tying 12, and Philadelphia stopped a four-game skid.

Brad Miller hit a three-run homer as the Phillies averted a sweep and snapped Boston's four-game win streak.

Wheeler (4-2) allowed one run in 7 1/3 innings. He retired 17 straight batters after a lead-off single.

Franchy Cordero and Rafael Devers homered for Boston. Eduardo Rodríguez (5-3) allowed four runs in four-plus innings.

## Angels 6, Athletics 5

In Anaheim, Calif., Justin Upton hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning, and the Angels avoided a sweep.

Los Angeles won for just the second time in seven games since three-time AL MVP Mike Trout went on the injured list with a calf strain. It trailed 4-1 after five innings.

Jared Walsh homered for the Angels, and Shohei Ohtani tied the game with a pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the seventh. Raisel Iglesias (3-2) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win.

Matt Olson and Seth Brown homered for AL West-leading Oakland, which had won four of six. Deolis Guerra (1-1) was charged with the loss.

## Braves 7, Pirates 1

In Atlanta, Austin Riley drove in five runs while hitting two of Atlanta's three homers.

Dansby Swanson added a

# One more thrill: Phil Mickelson wins at 50 in raucous PGA

**KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.** (AP)—Standing on the 18th tee with a two-shot lead in a championship he refused to imagine himself winning, Phil Mickelson took one last violent swing with a driver—the club that betrayed him 15 years earlier in the U.S. Open.

His tee shot Sunday in the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island landed only a few yards off the fairway, but it still nestled among the people—the gallery packed tightly between the ropes and a row of hospitality tents—screaming the name of their aging hero.

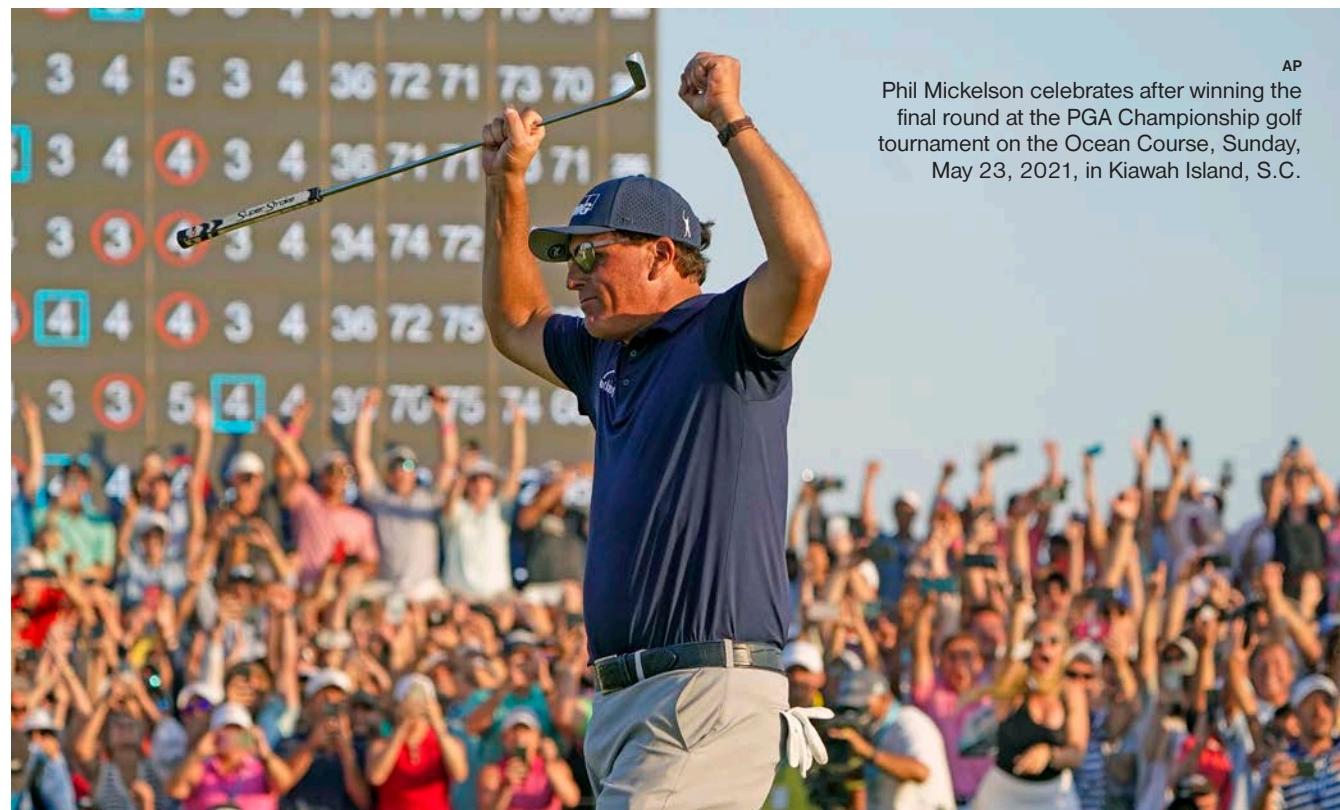
After Mickelson's approach shot settled on the green, assuring the 50-year-old of becoming the oldest major champion in history, the crowd swallowed him up entirely.

Phil Mickelson, the people's champion.

"It's an incredible experience. I've never had something like that," Mickelson said. "It was a little bit unnerving, but it was exceptionally awesome, too."

Golf can be cruel to veteran, sentimental favorites. Ben Hogan at the 1955 U.S. Open. Greg Norman at the 1996 Masters and the British Open a dozen years later. And, perhaps most heartbreakingly, 59-year-old Tom Watson at the 2009 British Open.

Mickelson, too, has had as many close calls as major victories—most of them at the



AP  
Phil Mickelson celebrates after winning the final round at the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course, Sunday, May 23, 2021, in Kiawah Island, S.C.

U.S. Open, where he's been runner-up six times. Winged Foot—where he gave away a one-shot lead on the 72nd hole in 2006—wasn't the first, or the last.

But now, the two biggest stars of their generation have a signature late-career win. Tiger Woods overcame four back surgeries, turmoil in his personal life and 11 years of frustration in major championships to win the Masters two years ago at age 43.

Mickelson—happy at home and injury-free—merely

stretched the limits of what's possible after a half-century on Earth.

"There's no reason why I or anybody else can't do it at a later age. It just takes a little more work," Mickelson said.

Nine days earlier, Mickelson accepted a special exemption to play in the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in his hometown of San Diego. Now he's assured at least five more cracks at the lone major that has eluded him. The victory makes him exempt at the U.S. Open through 2025.

Already a Hall of Famer, Mickelson joined Nick Faldo and Lee Trevino as six-time major winners. Only 11 players have won more. If he somehow won another in his 50s, he'd match Arnold Palmer, Bobby Jones, Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead and Harry Vardon.

"I don't know how to describe the feeling of excitement and fulfillment and accomplishment to do something when — you know, of

this magnitude when very few people thought that I could," Mickelson said.

The record will show Mickelson closed with a 1-over 73 for a two-shot win over Brooks Koepka (73) and Louis Oosthuizen (74). That doesn't begin to describe the wild fluctuations of Sunday on the menacing Ocean Course, where Mickelson and Koepka hit shots that were both spectacular and shocking, sometimes on the same hole.

Between them, Mickelson and Koepka made 16 pars, 10 bogeys, nine birdies and one double bogey. Five of the first 10 holes had swings of two shots or more—and that didn't include the par-3 fifth, when Mickelson holed out from a waste bunker with Koepka safely on the green.

Even with three bogeys in a five-hole stretch on the back nine, Mickelson hit enough good shots to avoid bigger numbers and hold off Koepka.

Then came the bedlam on 18, where Mickelson and Koepka fought their way through the crowd to get to the green.

There were no fans at last year's three major championships. Patrons returned to the Masters last month to cheer Hideki Matsuyama's breakthrough win. But this was golf's rowdiest gallery since before the COVID-19 pandemic, and it came at a time when the virus is receding in the U.S., with well over half of adults at least partially vaccinated.

Masks were rare among the crowd, which the PGA of America said was limited to 10,000 people a day. Fans pressed five-deep against the ropes, stumbled atop steep dunes and clambered into trees on the sprawling Ocean Course.

Golf, which surged in popularity last year as a sport with built-in social distancing, returned to something approaching normal, with fans celebrating an extraordi-

nary champion.

"It was like the Phil that I remember watching just when I turned pro and it was great to see," Oosthuizen said.

The records Mickelson shattered were numerous. Julius Boros for 53 years held the distinction of golf's oldest major champion. He was 48 when he won the 1968 PGA Championship.

Mickelson became the first player in PGA Tour history to win tournaments 30 years apart. The first of his 45 titles was in 1991, when he was still a junior at Arizona State and Koepka was 8 months old.

Mickelson joined Woods—who sent a tweet of congratulations—among the 10 players who've won majors in three decades.

Lefty spent very little time talking to reporters before Sunday's post-tournament news conference and refused to discuss what a win would mean to him. Instead, he pounded extra balls on the driving range—even on Sunday, he was rehearsing swing positions in between shots—and spent time meditating to recapture the mental sharpness he said he'd lost earlier this year.

"Anybody who really thinks they can win on a Sunday is going to be feeling that pressure and the nerves," said 49-year-old Padraig Harrington, who closed with a 69 to tie for fourth. "I'd say Phil is full to capacity, but that's where he likes to live."

This was Mickelson's first major win with his brother, Tim, as his caddie. Could there be more?

"It's very possible that this is the last tournament I ever win. Like if I'm being realistic," Mickelson said. "But it's also very possible that I may have had a little bit of a breakthrough in some of my focus and maybe I go on a little bit of a run."

## MINI

From Page 20

The ceremony will include remarks by Torres and other dignitaries, an indigenous cultural presentation, and official unveiling of the PMG logo.

The Northern Marianas has pledged \$4 million to host the Mini Games, which will be held on June 17-25, 2022. The Games are a multi-sport event governed by the Pacific Games Committee and are as a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games, held every al-

ternating four years. The PGC is also supporting the event financially, and fundraising for cash and in-kind support will also be conducted.

The Mini Games will include athletics, badminton, baseball, golf, beach volleyball, tennis, triathlon, and va'a (outrigger canoe) at various venues around Saipan.

COVID-19 protocols will be followed at the launch ceremony.

For more information, contact the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee at mari-anassports@gmail.com. (PR)

## KIM

From Page 20

score of 69. Accompanying their acquired title, the duo was awarded \$500.

The closest to the pin awards were given to Harry Nakamura, Shine Tenorio, Joe Tudela, Peng Cheng Wu, and John Terlaje.

Nakamura took home the KP award for getting closest in hole No. 3, Tenorio made it closest in hole No. 7, Tudela came closest in hole No. 13, Wu came closest in hole No. 17, and Terlaje made it closest in hole No. 12.

No hole-in-ones were scored during the tournament.

In an interview with Chamber executive director Lee

Tenorio, he said the event would benefit around 12 scholars who are working on earning their college degrees.

"This is the outcome we were anticipating. This fundraiser fulfilled our goal of making sure that we give around 12 scholars the opportunity to continue getting their college degrees," he said.

Amber Qutano, a nursing student at the Northern Marianas College and one of the beneficiaries of the SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament, said the tournament encourages students who otherwise may not have the funds to go to college, to pursue their goals because people believe in them enough to raise money to fund their education.

## DEV

From Page 20

groups depending on how an individual has performed in 5K runs in the past.

The group with the longest 5K completion times were released first, followed by the second group, and the third group, which consisted of 5K runners with a record of below 25 minutes, was released last giving the first group a 10-minute head start.

"We had three running groups to start. We based it on people's current 5k times: C group if your 5K time is over 30 minutes. B group if your 5K time is between 26 minutes to 30. A group if your time is faster than 25 minutes. We released C group first. We waited 5 minutes before we



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan hosted its Beach Road Sunset 5K run last Saturday along Beach Road.

released B group. Then we waited another 5 until we released the A runners. It was so

much fun. People had a great time being chased or doing the chasing to catch up," he said.

Run Saipan's next 5K run will be held on June 20 at Banzai Cliff.



8th-seeded Memphis  
beats No. 1-seeded  
Jazz in series opener

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

20 TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021

One more thrill: Phil  
Mickelson wins at 50  
in raucous PGA

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Kim, Liam dominate Double Peoria

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**E**noch Liam and Ki Yong Kim dominated the Double Peoria category of the Saipan of Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

## Mini Games launch ceremony on June 17

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 in the Northern Marianas will hold an official launch ceremony on June 17, 2021, to begin the one-year countdown to the games, expected to draw up over 1,000 athletes from across the Pacific.

The ceremony will be led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and will be held at 4:30pm at the Oleai Sports Complex, the venue for several of the games.

"We anticipate that the Pacific Mini Games will be the largest sporting event in the Northern Marianas in 2022, and we are excited to give



our Pacific-wide athletes the first glimpses of what they can expect when they come to compete," said Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chief executive officer Ben Babauta. "The

launch ceremony acknowledges the work already being undertaken by the committee, local federations, and contractors to ensure our facilities and all arrangements are ready, and it will be an opportunity to get the local community excited and involved in the Games leading into 2022.

**See MINI on Page 19**



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
CNMI Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chief executive officer Ben Babauta gives updates on the upcoming Pacific Mini Games 2022 that will be hosted by the CNMI in 2022 during the Northern Marianas Sports Association's meeting last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

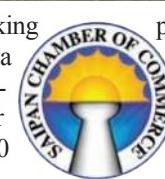


KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
Enoch Liam and Ki Yong Kim receive their award after winning the Double Peoria category of the Saipan of Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Golf Course.

Liam and Kim got away with the lowest net score of the tournament, 67.20, prevailing over 50 other teams. The pair scored 34 in the front nine and 32 in the back nine for a gross score of 66. They earned the lowest net score despite sporting a -1.20 handicap.

Aside from taking home the title and a year's worth of bragging rights, the pair also pocketed \$800 altogether.

Juan Guerrero and Tony Be-  
navente landed second place  
with a net score of 68.80. The



pair fired 33 in the front nine and 37 in the back nine for a gross score of 70. The pair's handicap of 1.20 bumped the pair up to second place. Along with the title, the duo took home \$650.

Finishing in the tourna-

ment's Top 3 was Joseph Muña and Freddy Salavaria who shot a 36 in the front nine and 33 in the back nine for a gross score of 69. With a handicap of 0, the pair ended the tournament with a net

**See KIM on Page 19**

## Dev Bachani rules Sunset Run

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Dev Bachani bested over 30 other runners during Run Saipan's Beach Road Sunset 5K run last Saturday along Beach Road.

Bachani recorded the fastest time overall, completing the race in 20:30:33. Following him with the second fastest recorded time was Rex Pixley who came in a split second after at 20:30:37. Completing the race at third place was Sildrey Veloria who submitted a time of 21:00:40.

Not only did the trio complete the race in the shortest time, they were also honored the Top 3 for the men's division.

Meanwhile, for the women's division, current 10K record holder and multiple marathon champ Akiko Miller was recognized as the first-place winner for completing the run in 21:38:00. Coming in as runner-up was Rosema-

rie Fontanilla Chisato who recorded a time of 27:34:07. Making the Top 3 was Yuki Rechucher who finished the course in 28:27:00.

According to Edward Jr. Dela Cruz, the 5K turned out

great because of all the new faces that came out to join. Because of this, the group decided to a different approach this time, putting into play the "staggered start approach."

"We had so many new faces.

Everyone did an amazing job this 5K we did things a little different. We introduced the staggered start approach," he said.

Dela Cruz explained that runners were split into three

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dev Bachani, middle, bested over 30 other runners during the Run Saipan's Beach Road Sunset 5K run last Saturday along Beach Road. From left, second place Rex Pixley, Bachani, and third place Sildrey Veloria.